Tanong ng Bayan / A16

Martial law victims, dapat bang bayaran?

CELLCARD KADA ARAW, CELLPHONE KADA LINGGO! Text 2910 now!

■ **World / A10**

Ray Charles leads Grammy winners

■ **Sports / A23**

Rosales, Delasin post greatest RP feat in World Cup

■ **Entertainment / A2-4**

OPM for love

RP expects new credit downgrade by Moody's

By Doris C. Dumlao
Business

THE PHILIPPINES appears headed for another sovereign credit rating downgrade—this time by US-based Moody's Investor Service—as the markets demand further fiscal and power sector reforms, according to

RP EXPECTS/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sister Lucia, Fatima visionary, dies; 97

LISBON, Portugal—Sister Lucia, the last survivor among the three shepherd children to whom the Virgin Mary is said to have made a series of apparitions in 1917, died of old age on Sunday. She was 97.

Lucia de Jesus dos Santos, a Roman Catholic nun, died at an old convent in the central Portuguese city of Coimbra that houses the Order of the Carmelita where

SISTER/ A8

REUTERS

SR. LUCIA DOS SANTOS: Last of the three children of Fatima to whom the Virgin May is believed to have appeared in 1917.

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Tuesday, February 15, 2005 ★★ 50 pages / 5 sections Vol. 20 No. 69 P18

website: www.inq7.net

7 killed in Abu bombings

Our Valentine gift to Gloria, says bandit leader

By PDI Metro Section and PDI Mindanao Bureau

AT LEAST seven people were killed and nearly 100 wounded when attackers claiming to be Abu Sayyaf last night bombed buses and crowded places in the cities of Makati, General Santos and Davao.

The coordinated Valentine's Day attacks occurred during the evening rush hour and followed warnings from Muslim civilian groups that the military offensive against Moro insurgents on Jolo Island could spill over to urban centers. *(See story below.)*

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu placed the military on red alert. Malacañang denounced the attacks as "despicable acts of terror" and said the government would not be cowed.

Three people were killed in Makati when a bomb exploded in the rear of a bus along Edsa near the Intercontinental Hotel, engulfing the vehicle in flames and damaging five other buses near it.

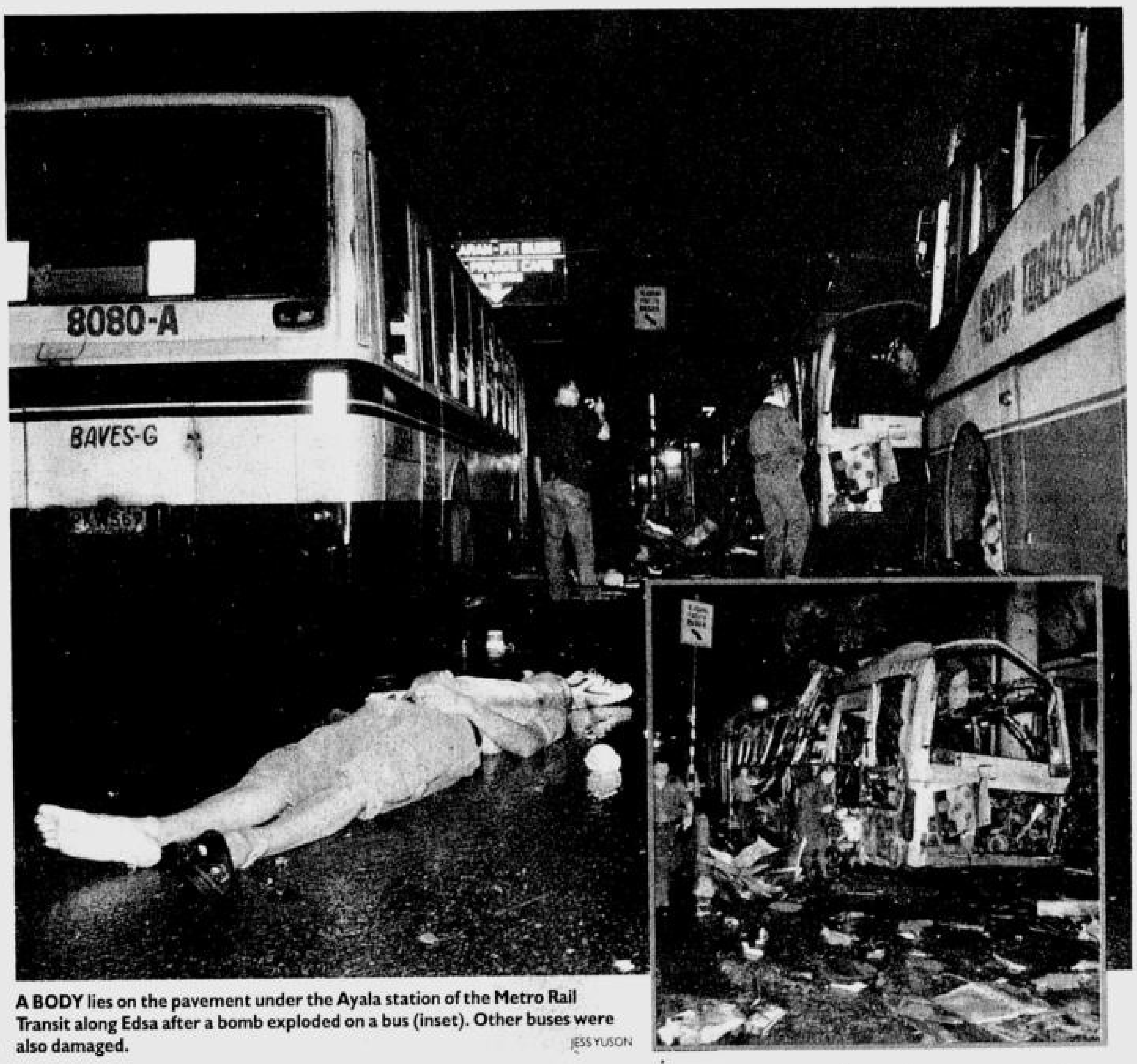
The buses were cruising under the Metro Rail Transit terminal in Makati when the bomb—described by police as "a high explosive"—shattered the Valentine Day's holiday mood of shoppers and commuters.

At least 60 people were taken to the Makati Medical Center and Ospital ng Makati for treatment.

Three others were killed and 30 injured when a bomb went off just outside the popular Gaisano Mall in General Santos.

One was killed and six were wounded when an 81-mm mortar shell exploded at the gate of a bus depot in Davao City.

7 KILLED/ A6



A BODY lies on the pavement under the Ayala station of the Metro Rail Transit along Edsa after a bomb exploded on a bus (inset). Other buses were also damaged. JESS YUSON

AMANDO TETANGCO: A "cabalen" with a solid record as a career central banker, and married to a former Miss Central Bank to boot.

Tetangco new chief of BSP

By Doris C. Dumlao and Juliet Labog-Javellana

A CAREER government executive married to a former "Miss Central Bank" has been named Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor.

The appointment of Amando "Say" Tetangco Jr. was announced yesterday by President Macapagal-Arroyo minutes after the swearing in of new members of her economic team in Malacañang.

Tetangco, 52, is set to take over the helm of the BSP when Governor Rafael Buenaventura retires in July, signaling the continuity of

TETANGCO/ A6

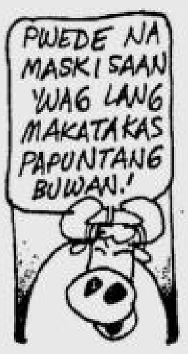
Erap wants to move about 14-ha estate

By Armand N. Nocum

HE MAY have been fitted with new titanium knees, but ousted President Joseph Estrada is no bionic man who can scale or jump over walls.

With this argument, lawyer Rene Saguisag yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to give the former leader—who is detained on

ERAP/ A8



PWEDE NA MASKI SAAN 'WAG LANG MAKATAKAS PAPUNTANG BUWAN.!

Misuari linked to MNLF attacks in Sulu

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE ORDER for Moro insurgents on Jolo to launch a new uprising may have come from Nur Misuari himself using a cell phone from his detention quarters.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said such a possibility could be inferred from information Malacañang had received that the jailed former rebel chief had talked to his field commanders through his mobile phone before the outbreak of the recent fighting.

"We cannot say he has direct culpability but we have strong indications and the members of the [MNLF] Central Committee themselves are the ones saying Misuari was able to contact [his followers]," Ermita told Malacañang reporters.

He said this was the reason the police had been ordered not to allow Misuari to contact his followers "even by cell phone."'

"In other words, he was able to give instructions, directives, so because of that information, the police prohibited him [from calling]," he added.

Asked what instructions Misuari gave, Ermita said: "It would not be far-fetched that they want to conduct these activities to call attention to themselves in order to speed up the court case against Misuari.

"But that is only a possibility since we were not able to hear their conversations. But for sure, they could not be just saying hello when they talked."

In Jolo, another battalion of

MISUARI/ A20

MARISSA Fernandez files a complaint against basketball legend Ramon Fernandez. ERIK ARAZAS

Mon Fernandez wife sues to stop physical abuse

By Chelo Banal-Formoso
Lifestyle Editor

VALENTINE'S Day was far from romantic for Maria Socorro "Marissa" Fernandez, but it certainly was momentous.

Yesterday, Fernandez filed an application for temporary and permanent protection order against her husband under Republic Act No. 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004. *(See story on Page A4)*. This after 27 years of marriage, four children and a grandchild.

Her husband is Ramon "Mon" Fernandez, former star of the professional basketball teams Toyota, Asia Beer, Tanduay, Purefoods and San Miguel, former commissioner of the Metropolitan Basketball Association (MBA) and currently the commissioner of the United Regional Basketball League (URBL).

According to Marissa, the Mon Fernandez that the public knows and the Mon Fer-

MON FERNANDEZ/ A4

HOLOCAUST IN MANILA

'I saw my father die beside me'

SALVADOR DEL MUNDO: Just had time to save his children before he was killed on the spot.

(Editor's Note: Sixty years ago, 100,000 mostly civilian Filipinos perished in the 28-day Battle for Manila in February 1945. The Memorare-Manila 1945 Foundation founded by the survivors and descendants of the victims aims to keep the flame of remembrance burning brightly to illumine the meaning of their dying.)

By Luz G. del Mundo
Contributor

(Last of a series)

APRIL is the cruelest month for T.S. Eliot in his "Wasteland." For me, looking back over six decades, February is the cruelest month.

In February 1945, prior to the American soldiers' entry in the south of Manila, American artillery had begun to shell buildings left standing in order to flush out Japanese snipers.

My father, Dr. Salvador V. del Mundo, had just built a home a few blocks away from La Salle on Taft Avenue, and therefore we did not evacuate to the province. Two gates bounded the lot on where our home stood, one on Taft and another on Agno (now Fidel Reyes Street).

It was the evening of Feb. 12. The residence of our neighbor, Dr. Januario Estrada, on Taft was already burning, and so we gathered in our garden near the Agno gate. Three Japanese soldiers entered the garden and began to stab at our pushcart of canned goods and rice that we were planning to bring with us. They then pushed us toward the Agno gate. We crossed the street and joined a family in a hut several meters away.

Probably because he heard a noise from the hut, a Japanese sentry, from a distance, fired three times in the dark. One bullet grazed the feet of my mother, Josefa Gotuaco-del Mundo, and my sister, Paz.

In the early morning of Feb. 13, my father decided to take me and my three siblings—Salvador Jr., Josefina and Elisa—to

I SAW MY FATHER/ A8

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. While eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/15/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

‘Happy Valentine’s, Congressman’

‘Hot Babe’ files sex raps vs Rep. Antonio Diaz of Zambales

By Philip C. Tubeza

“HAPPY Valentine’s, Mr. Congressman,” now here’s your subpoena.

Viva Hot Babe Ana Lea Javier yesterday filed sexual harassment charges against Rep. Antonio Diaz (LP, 2nd dist., Zambales) before the Department of Justice.

In a four-page complaint, Javier accused Diaz of forcibly kissing, caressing and embracing her at his beach resort in Iba, Zambales, on Jan. 20, after the birthday party of Zambales Gov. Vic Magsaysay.

“Happy Valentine’s to Congressman Diaz. This is for real. The fight is on,” said Javier.

Sought for comment, Diaz said: “These are people seeking only publicity.” He refused to say anything more.

Javier and her fellow complainant, Remedios “Baby Bueno” Coady, also charged Diaz with grave oral defamation.

They said they filed the charges so that Diaz, who is 77, would learn not to denigrate starlets who were still struggling in their careers.

Coady said Diaz had contacted her asking for Viva Hot Babe Jennifer Lee to provide entertainment during Magsaysay’s birthday celebration.

“The accused vividly told Coady he would pay Ms Lee ‘on a name-your-price’ arrangement, provided that she went ‘all the way’ in her performance during the governor’s birthday celebration,” the complainants’ joint affidavit said.

“Moreover, Coady was told by (Diaz) that (he) would hire Ms Lee as his personal secretary for P25,000 a month,” they said.

Lee, however, was not available on Jan. 20 and Javier substituted for her for a fee of P50,000. All Javier had to do was sing a birthday song for Magsaysay, the affidavit said.

But right after the complainants, with two others, arrived at Castillejos, Zambales, the harassment allegedly started.

They said Diaz met them and “ran toward Javier and shamelessly” kissed her.

After Javier sang at the party, Diaz reportedly had his bodyguards take the complainants to his beach resort, which was “definitely” not part of the arrangement, the complainants said.

When they got to the resort, Javier and Coady said they noticed the “place was so quiet” with “no sign of movement or merriment...”

Diaz, who was allegedly slightly drunk, then ordered Javier to “go straight to his bedroom.”

“Trembling with fear, she heeded the order, and there she was sexually harassed by accused solon by kissing, caressing and embracing her,” the affidavit said.

Coady, her secretary Eulygen C. Cabetin, and Javier’s manager, Annie Ayroso, could only wait helplessly outside the bedroom since Diaz’s armed bodyguards allegedly blocked their way.

In the bedroom, Diaz allegedly offered Javier another P50,000 if she would give in to his “sexual desires/advances/favors.”

She refused.

Coady said Diaz came out of the room “furiously shouting” and driving Javier out.

“I will not pay you... Ana Lea is ugly,” Coady quoted Diaz as saying.

Diaz allegedly reiterated that he had wanted Jennifer Lee and that even Coady was “much prettier and taller then as a 16-year-old prostitute.” Diaz, Coady said, had courted her when she was younger.

Ayroso then demanded that Diaz pay the P50,000 talent fee he had promised for Javier but the lawmaker allegedly gave them only P25,000.

“I was not impressed and satisfied with Ana Lea,” Diaz reportedly told them. *With Carlito Pablo*

IBP: Gonzalez not fit for DOJ

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE INTEGRATED Bar of the Philippines (IBP) has opposed the confirmation of Raul Gonzalez as secretary of justice.

In a two-page resolution dated Jan. 13, the IBP board of governors said Gonzalez was “unfit and undeserving” to be secretary of justice for allegedly violating the code of ethics for government officials and for projecting himself as a “peddler of patronage.”

The resolution was forwarded to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Senate President Franklin Drilon, presiding officer of the Commission on Appointments.

Reached for comment, Gonzalez said he “did not understand” the IBP move, recalling that IBP national president Jose Anselmo Cadiz had told him the group was not going to oppose his confirmation.

“Well, if they did file [an opposition], that is their privilege. You cannot stop them from filing even if it is a ridiculous complaint. Maybe they changed their minds,” Gonzalez said.

In its resolution, the IBP said Gonzalez had “startled the public with his admission on national television” that his appointment as acting justice secretary was “a political payoff for his safeguarding of the votes” of President Macapagal-Arroyo during the canvassing of votes by Congress after the May 10, 2004, presidential election.

Gonzalez, a former deputy speaker of the House, had presided over the canvassing of the votes for president and vice president.

“Said actuation of [Gonzalez] clearly demonstrates his lack of appreciation and disregard for the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials, which mandates that public officials shall discharge their duties without discrimination and regardless of party affiliation or preference,” the IBP said.

The “patronage” charge came after Gonzalez “brazenly floated to the media information pertaining to the petition for parole of former Congressman Romeo Jalosjos, his former colleague in the House.

“The Bureau of Prisons (which is under the office of the justice secretary) subsequently denied Jalosjos’ petition because he had not even served half of his sentence and, therefore, was not qualified for parole.”

According to the resolution, Gonzalez then declared that, considering the circumstances, Jalosjos’ only “chance for freedom was if President Macapagal-Arroyo exercised her prerogative to grant a pardon for humanitarian reasons.”

“Such actuation of the acting secretary was trained to elicit public sympathy for a former colleague who is a convicted criminal and as an attempt to extend undue favor to the latter, and that by doing so he [Gonzalez] thus unwittingly projected himself as a peddler of patronage,” the IBP said.

The IBP is the official organization of all Philippine lawyers whose names appear in the Roll of Attorneys of the Supreme Court. It was organized in 1973 with the objectives of elevating the standards of the legal profession and improving the administration of justice. As of 2000, the IBP had 40,461 members. *With lawyer Michael Cucio, PDI Research*

COPW TO ASSIST CAP PLANHOLDERS BASED ON THE CRITERIA OF DISCLOSURE AND TRANSPARENCY

CREDIBILITY ISSUE AND PROTECTION OF PLANHOLDERS

Vice President Bobby Cafe of College Assurance Plan and the COPW Chairman forged an understanding that we will assist CAP to regain its credibility based on the principle of full disclosure and transparency. We also agreed to invite Partylist Member Loretta Rosales to join this undertaking.

PROTECTION OF PLANHOLDERS

Both groups want to assure the 700,000 planholders that when enrollment time comes, CAP has the funds to pay their tuition fees until they graduate.

Therefore, to win the confidence of the planholders, we requested CAP for a breakdown of the 700,000 CAP scholars who will be enrolled yearly starting 2005, and the amount of tuition fees required every year.

PROACTIVE MEASURES

We agreed we will meet with the following groups to help us understand and recommend doable actions:

- To know from the banks which handle the trust funds of CAP their criteria in investing the funds. Also, to find out whether the trust funds deviated from its policy of conservatism when they invested in MRT and Camp John Hay projects.
- CAP is now offering MRT bonds with a maturity value of P1.00 per share but the market discounted it to 38 centavos. However, when the CAP sales agents were offering it, the price dropped to 11 centavos.
- COPW Chairman and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Fe Barin agreed that we will be furnished a copy of the $300 million loan with First American Investment, Ltd., which CAP had already submitted to the SEC.
- School tuition fees were deregulated sometime in early 1990 resulting in a dramatic rise in the cost of education because of an increase in the demand for higher-skilled teachers. Because of this, other pre-need companies adjusted their rates accordingly; whereas CAP did not.
- If CAP does not adjust its rates to be at par with the other pre-need companies, then, it will find it extremely difficult to be viable.

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PNP to use diet pills in battle of the bulge

By Christian V. Esguerra

FAT COPS need not despair.

The Philippine National Police is introducing a popular weight-loss drug to help its men win the battle against the bulge.

This time, the police were promised victory against obesity with Reductil (Sibutramine), a drug that helps users shed excess fat within three to six months, well within the PNP’s three-month “Reduce Weight Program.”

According to Reductil’s website, the medicine works “by making you feel satisfied with less food. It helps control how much you eat. By eating less, it should be easier for you to lose weight.”

PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay yesterday launched the program, together with Abbott Laboratories, the pharmaceutical company that pledged to provide free Reductil drugs to overweight officers throughout the duration of the fitness program.

A total of 75 officers took an “oath” before their boss at Camp Crame, promising to lose those bellies before May.

The drug is a welcome addition to the PNP program that subjects cops to intense weight-reduction sessions each week. At least twice weekly, the Crame grandstand is one big workout area for cops in white shirts and shorts.

The policy was much stricter during Sen. Panfilo Lacson’s term as PNP chief. A waistline bigger than 34 inches meant expulsion from the service.

Aglipay’s slimming program is not solely dependent on Reductil. Taking the drug does not mean that fat cops can abandon “proper diet, exercise and healthy lifestyle,” he said.

Besides, no less than the drug’s manufacturer acknowledges the drug’s side effects which include “headache, constipation, dry mouth and insomnia,” according to Abbott’s information kit.

Peril behind sweet smell

By Volt Contreras

IT’S THE sweet smell of ... sickness?

Environmental watchdog Greenpeace yesterday warned that perfumes can be dangerous to your health.

A local Greenpeace officer cited a recent study by the Netherlands-based scientists who found that at least 36 popular perfume brands were tested positive for “hazardous, manmade chemicals” which could enter the human body through inhalation or skin contact.

According to the study, these fragrances—mostly expensive signature brands made in Europe and sold in Asia—contain varying levels of phthalates (used as fixatives for perfume, slowing down evaporation and making the scent linger longer) and synthetic musks “which may have unwanted health effects” on humans.

Francis de la Cruz, the group’s toxics campaigner, said the findings supported current moves in the European Union to push laws forcing chemical industries, including those that supply cosmetics and scents manufacturers, to find replacements for their “toxic” ingredients.

De la Cruz, however, failed to give a categorical answer at the press conference when asked if specific cases of human ailments had actually been traced to prolonged exposure to these chemicals.

De la Cruz conceded the “difficulty, if not the impossibility, of quantifying human and environmental exposure to these chemicals and, consequently, of determining the risk and acceptable exposure.”

He said the study had merely established that the chemicals can enter the body and are “suspected” to have adverse effects not just on humans but other animals.

Phthalates, for example, may affect the DNA of sperm cells and “restrict” lung function in men, while synthetic musk may interfere in the communication hormones of mammals and even fishes and amphibians, De la Cruz said, quoting the study done by TNO Environment and Geosciences.

Greenpeace commissioned TNO to do the study in its laboratory in the Netherlands from 2003 to 2004.

Sampled brands included Eternity by Calvin Klein, Vanderbilt by Gloria Vanderbilt and Jean Paul Gaultier La Male.

Others in the testing list included Armani (Emporio) She, Chanel No. 5 and Chanel Chance, Envy by Gucci, Miracle so Magic by Lancome, Polo Blue by Ralph Lauren, Puma Jamaica Woman and Puma Jamaica Man, Naomi Campbell Sunset, The Body Shop White Musk and Blu Notte pour Homme by Bulgari.

The study, released early this month, has prompted Greenpeace to start meeting with perfume manufacturers to discuss the “phaseout” of harmful ingredients in their products.

Kiwis advised against travel to South following heavy fighting in Sulu

TAKING its cue from the United Kingdom, New Zealand yesterday advised its citizens against traveling to Mindanao where heavy fighting has erupted between government troops and Moro insurgents in Sulu.

The New Zealand government advised its citizens not to make a trip to "all of Mindanao," Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi islands as well as Palawan in southern Luzon.

"Heightened caution and security awareness should be exercised by New Zealanders when traveling in the Philippines. We continue to advise against all travel to the southern Philippines," it said in the advisory.

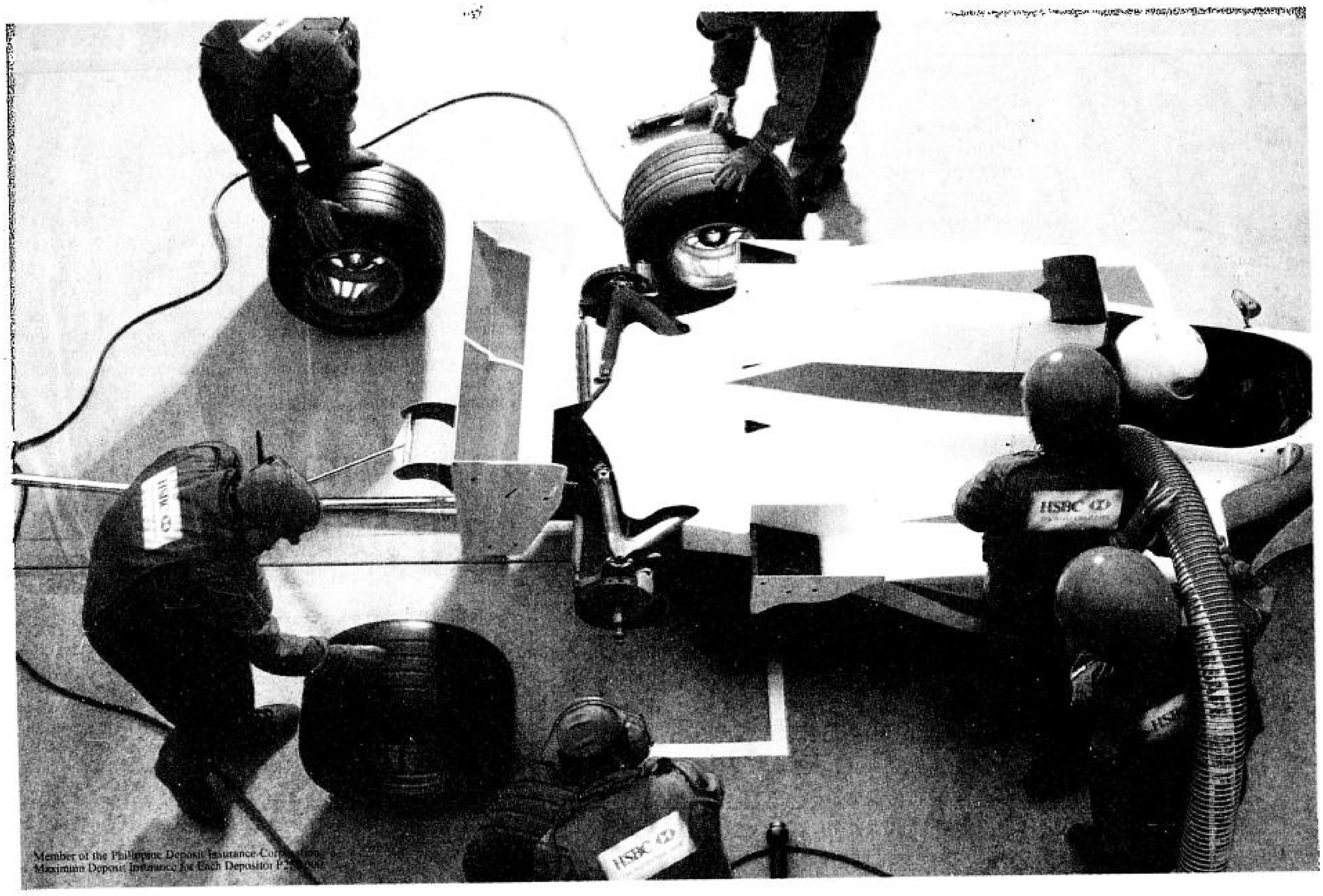
The United Kingdom had earlier advised its nationals to skip Mindanao.

Basilan Gov. Gerry Salapuddin had warned that the fighting "might engulf" the entire Sulu and spill over into other islands if the offensive were not halted.

The clashes broke out last Monday after rebels ambushed a convoy of soldiers in Patikul town and staged attacks in three other areas in Jolo.

The New Zealand government also advised its citizens to "be very careful about personal security" while traveling to the rest of the country, including Manila, citing some "risk of terrorism and kidnapping."

TJ Burgonio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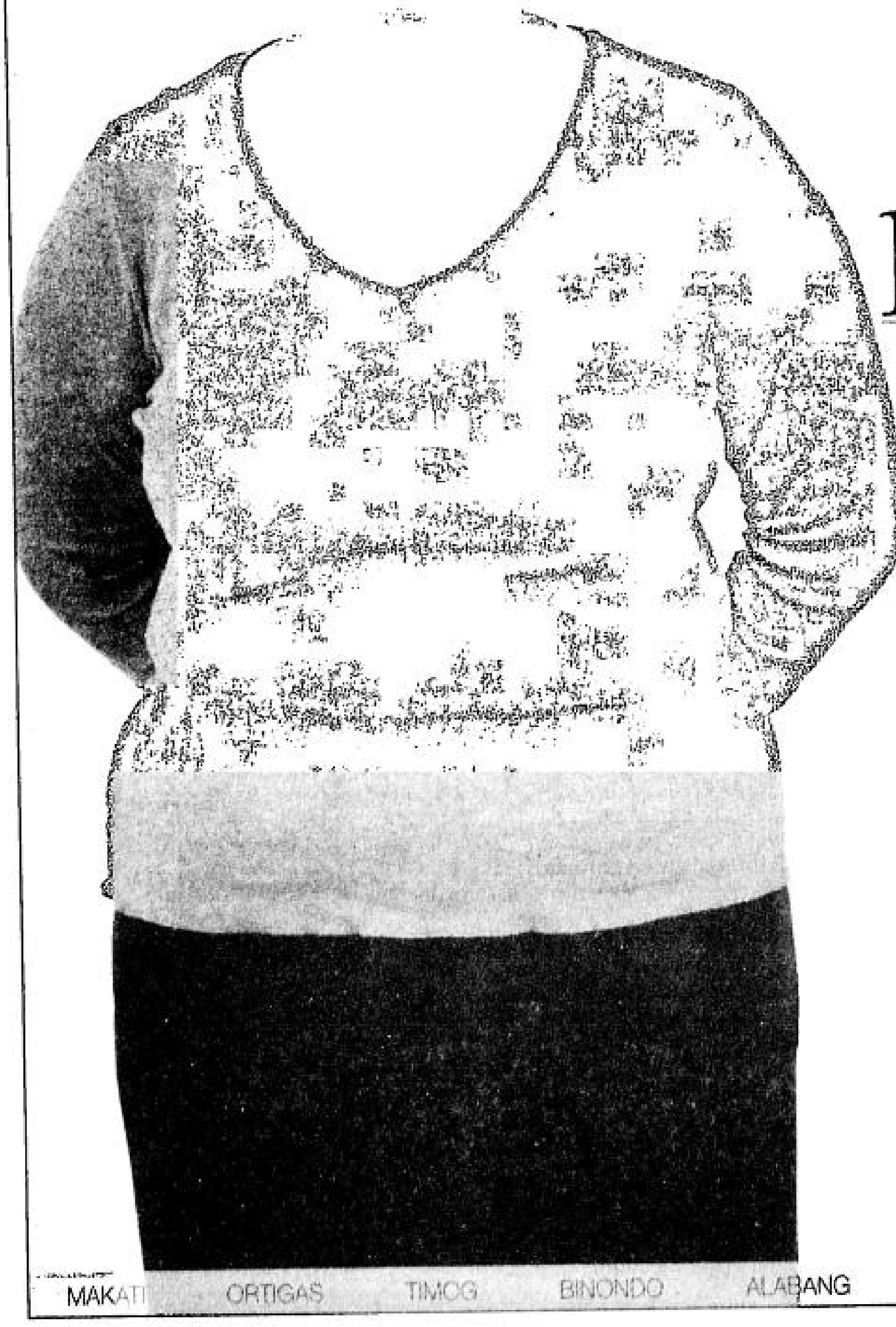

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'El Presidente' denies wife's allegations of abuse

By Nancy Carvajal
Metro

FORMER basketball superstar Ramon "El Presidente" Fernandez denied his wife Maria Socorro's allegations that he had physically abused her and their children during their marriage of 27 years.

Maria Socorro yesterday applied at the Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court for a temporary and permanent protection order prohibiting Ramon from communicating with her, her immediate family, the house help, and from entering their conjugal home in Ayala Alabang.

Ramon, now a commissioner of United Regional Basketball League (URBL), was surprised by his wife's filing for a TPO and denied the alleged beating.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, the retired basketball player jokingly said that maybe he should also file a "battered husband case against his wife."

"How can I beat her when I have not been going home since October of last year," Ramon said.

He also denied having a girlfriend named Carla Kintanar, the alleged other woman in his wife's complaint.

"*Akala lang niya* [Marissa] *yon*[That's what she thinks]," Ramon said.

In her complaint, Maria Socorro asked for sole custody of their four children, P300,000 monthly support for the children, P60,000 rental for their conjugal home, a vehicle for her own use, and compensation for the acts of violence inflicted by Ramon on her person.

FERNANDEZ: How can I beat her when I have not been going home since October of last year?

Mon Fernandez wife sues to stop physical abuse

From page A1

nandez she and their children know are different personalities.

"Ramon has a very bad temper," she said. Not only would he "destroy anything and everything in his path" whenever he was angry, he would also hit her.

Mon has denied his wife's charges.

A petite and asthmatic 5 feet to her husband's 6 feet 4 and a half inches," Marissa said the abuse started early in the marriage. They were living in Pasig and she was still going to the University of the Philippines to earn her Mass Communications degree.

"We already had a kid," she says. "It started there and went on and on."

'Infidelities'

They fought over everything under the sun, she said, but mostly over Mon's infidelities. And the fights would almost always lead to violence.

Whenever she would confront him about an affair, he would deny it. "Because I really loved him I wanted to believe him," she said. "But when I wake up in the morning—for the last I don't know how many years—the first thing that enters my mind is who is he going to be with today?"

The womanizing was something she tried to ignore in the early years of the marriage, she said, despite reports from friends and family that they would see Mon with other women.

"The very first time it was somebody within Toyota who told me," she recalled. "*Ayoko siyang hulihin*. (I didn't want to catch him.) I was scared to know the truth."

Off and on throughout their marriage, she would learn of Mon's affairs. Marissa said she had kept the emotional and physical abuse from everybody, especially her parents, "because I promised myself I'd make my marriage work."

Her parents had been against the marriage, she said, "not because he was a bad person but because of the reputation of basketball players and because I was young."

Whirlwind romance

Marissa and Mon were married in 1977 after a whirlwind romance. She was 19, he was 24.

They had met when Marissa dropped off at the Toyota quarters a friend who was going out with another Toyota player. Mon was at that time one of local basketball's superstars.

For six consecutive years after their wedding, Mon was named to the PBA's Mythical First Team selection. He would make it to six more mythical teams thereafter. He is one of only two players to have been named Most Valuable Player four times.

"In the beginning, Mon was sweet. He pursued me, he was persistent. After we got married, I totally cut off all social life to be a wife to him and a mother to the children, which was his request," said Marissa. "I cooked for him and the kids. I brought the kids to school. I did everything. Everything."

Marissa said she didn't expose Mon's violent nature because of his stature in basketball. But when finally she talked to her children, cousins and close friends about the abuse, she said, they quickly refreshed her memory.

Bedroom beatings

The beatings, Marissa said, always happened in the bedroom so she thought the children did not know. But their 23-year-old daughter, Bianca, told her she witnessed one incident.

"She told me she pulled me from the room and blocked me and locked me out because my whole mouth was already bloodied up," said Marissa.

During Holy Week of 2003, she and Mon were arguing over the water bill when he suddenly hit her. The force flung her to the wall. She lashed back at him for hitting her over something as trivial as the water bill and he said he hit her because he hated her, and he would have hit her again had she not run downstairs.

The youngest boy saw her and upon learning of the hitting went upstairs to confront his dad.

The battery turned out to be far from what she thought was a well-kept secret.

"A cousin also said she had seen me with a black eye," Marissa added, "and a friend told me, 'Don't you remember you called me because you were being hit? So from my house I had to run to Alabang and I confronted Ramon.'"

One of Mon's nephews, who lived with the couple while going to college, had to drive Marissa to small clinics for treatment every time Mon would hit her. He had told his older sister about those incidents.

"He would sign on the medical form as my husband so Mon's name would not appear on anything," said Marissa.

Hospital treatment

However, Mon himself had to take her to the Makati Medical Center after what she considered the worst beating because, she recalled, "I could not move my head anymore and the entire room was spinning. I told him, 'Take me to the hospital or I'll ask my dad to take me."

At the hospital, she again had to lie and told the doctor she had fallen in the bathroom. "The doctor asked, 'How come you have contusions on the right and left and back of your head?' I said, 'I don't know. I just hit my head.'"

Marissa said Mon treated her like trash.

"When we are in front of other people, Ramon is very nice. Very nice. When we get home, he ignores me completely," she said. Whenever she had an asthma attack, Mon would get irritated. He always resented having to take her to the hospital for treatment.

The physical abuse abated somewhat when Marissa began selling real estate and had to be out of the house a lot. "We were also living in Alabang and he was a barangay officer so I would threaten him that I'd tell the barangay if he hit me."

When Mon ran for party-list representative in Cebu last year, the family saw less of him. Although he did not win, he continued to reside in Cebu and even ran his "Life Is A Ball" basketball camp there.

'Another woman'

Five months ago, Mon left the family home in Alabang. "We had not been sharing the same bed for a year before that," said Marissa. "He claimed he didn't love me anymore. I found out there was another woman."

Marissa said it was her children who convinced her to file the case. "I so want this marriage to last," she said. "But if he continues doing this to me, I'll die."

Were there happy years with Mon? "The honeymoon period, which was a year and a half. After that, I learned to make myself happy with my children."

Marissa is petitioning the court to prohibit Mon from inflicting more verbal, emotional and physical abuse on her and the children by directing him to stay away.

"Ramon is capable of doing anything," said Marissa. There were times, she said, when she feared for her life.

She is also asking for financial support for herself and the children.

Since Mon left the family home last August, according to Marissa, it has been so difficult to get financial support from him. And whenever he gave something, it was not enough.

"I want support. That's the least that he can do for me after I've protected him all these years," said Marissa.

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☐	Feb. 19 p.m.	2/MCLE Prescribed: Rules on Electronic Evidence 3/Updates in Constitutional & Election Law	Atty. Ivan John E. Uy Justice Regalado E. Maambong
☐	Feb. 26 a.m.	2/Trial and Pre- Trial Skills 2/MCLE Prescribed: Environmental Law	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval Justice Oswaldo D. Agcaoili
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Now, gov't losing English teachers to call centers

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE GOVERNMENT is losing potential English-proficient public school teachers to call centers because of low pay, according to Education Secretary Florencio Abad.

He admitted they were finding it difficult to recruit competent people because of the unattractive salaries of public school teachers.

As a result, he said, most new education graduates preferred to apply at call centers which offer higher salaries.

Call centers reportedly offer a monthly salary of P11,000 to P12,500 for a beginner in training. The entry level salary for a public school teacher is about P9,000.

Abad said education graduates also preferred to train as caregivers and then apply for higher-paying jobs abroad.

He admitted that the freeze on the salaries of government workers had discouraged education graduates from applying as public school teachers.

Government employees would not be getting a salary increase this year, for the fourth consecutive year, he added.

"As much as we would want to increase the salary of our teachers to a more competitive rate, we are really quite constrained by the fiscal crisis," Abad said.

He said their target this coming school year would be to recruit 10,000 new public school teachers.

To make sure they are hiring competent people, Abad said, they would be asking teacher-applicants to take an English proficiency exam on top of the mandatory Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET).

He reported that majority of public school teachers had failed an English self-assessment test.

Islamic subjects to be taught in some public schools—DepEd

PUBLIC elementary schools with sizeable numbers of Muslim students would be required to teach Islamic subjects starting next school year.

The Department of Education has integrated certain subjects taught in traditional Muslim schools, or madrasah, into the regular curriculum.

It is part of DepEd's plan to integrate the madrasah into the mainstream educational system.

Education Undersecretary for Special Concerns Manaros Boransing said the new curriculum will be implemented nationwide in public schools where there are large concentrations of Muslims.

"There are also Muslim communities outside of Mindanao," he pointed out.

Thus, starting June, Arabic and Islamic values would be taught along with the regular subjects of English, Filipino, Math, Science and Makabayan.

Taking up Arabic and Islamic values would be optional for non-Muslim students, said Boransing.

He said the teaching would follow a set curriculum that is free from any political undertones.

"We're organizing an ad hoc committee to iron out the mechanics," he said.

The DepEd has also prescribed a standard curriculum for the madrasah. It has integrated English and Filipino into the regular madrasah lessons.

Thus, English and Filipino would be taught along with the regular madrasah subjects of Arabic, Islamic studies, Math, Science and Bangsamoro History and Arts.

Boransing encouraged all madaris (plural of madrasah) to adopt the curriculum to get government-recognition. There are about 8,000 private madaris operating in the country.

However, they are not recognized by the government because they follow the Islamic educational system and use Arabic as the medium of instruction.

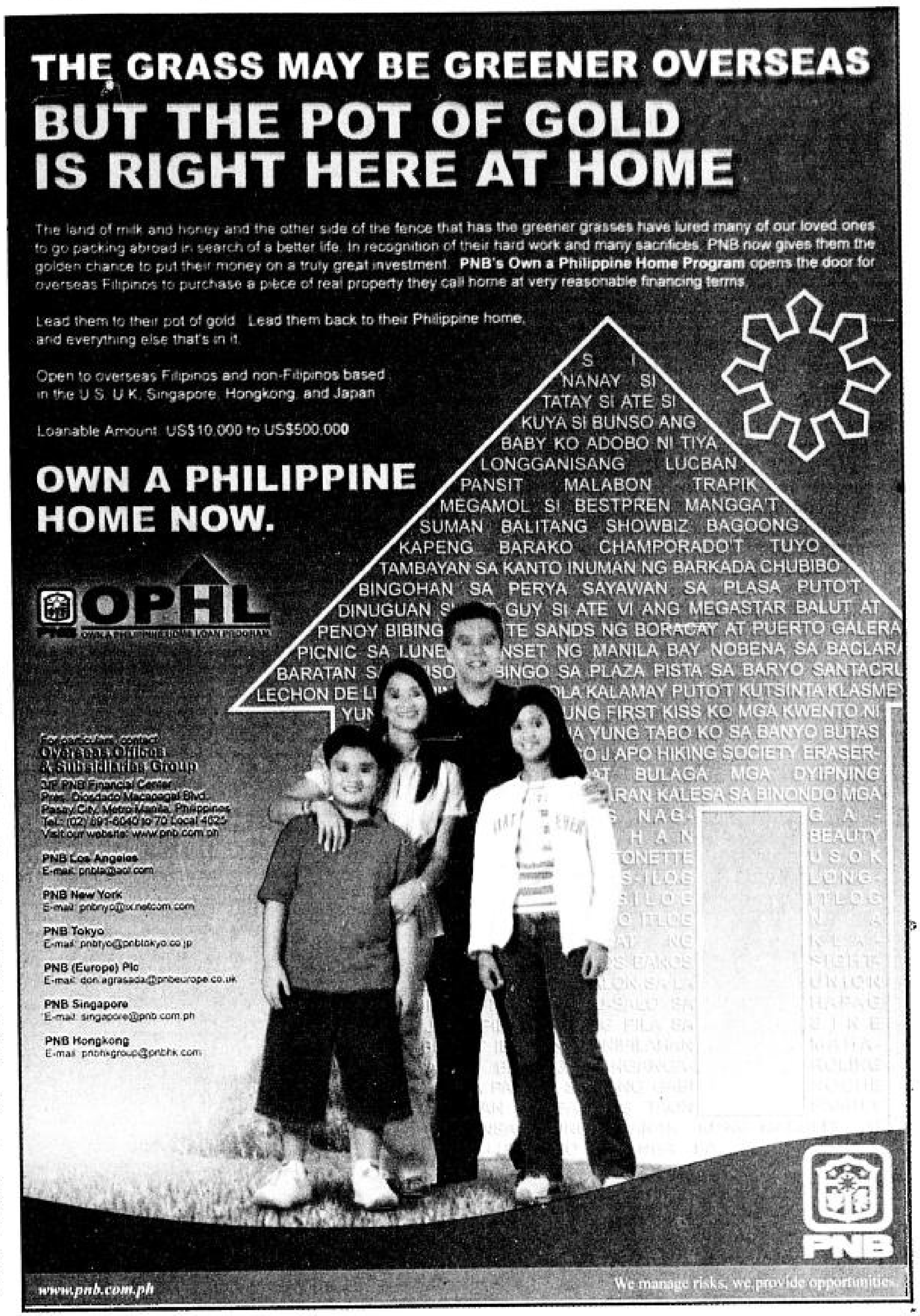
As a result madrasah graduates have a hard time entering college or landing jobs because their madrasah education is not recognized outside of Muslim communities.

Boransing said they are also developing special Islamic textbooks for public schools.

These textbooks would also be made available to madrasah students.

"What they use (in the madrasah) are learning materials from the Middle East. This is the first time we would have textbooks written by Filipinos," he said.

The DepEd has tapped 36 Muslim scholars or ulama to develop the textbooks. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*



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7 killed in Abu Sayyaf bombings

ADELFA Austria of Bacoor, Cavite, one of the bombing victims in Makati, grimaces in pain at the Makati Medical Center where she was rushed for treatment. REM ZAMORA

From page A1

"This is our Valentine gift to Gloria (President Macapagal-Arroyo)," Abu Solayman, a self-proclaimed Abu Sayyaf spokesperson, said when interviewed by radio station dzBB.

Speaking at least 30 minutes after the Makati bombing, Solayman warned of more attacks.

"We will find more ways to inflict damage," he said. "The defenders of Islam have struck again. It is our response to unabated atrocities that the government has been committing against the Muslims, from the harassment and arrest of innocent Muslims in Manila, to the attack in our own homes (in Mindanao)."

MEMBERS of the Explosives Ordnance and Detection team of the Special Anti-Terrorist Unit search the area surrounding Gate 1 of the Davao City Ecoland Transport Terminal where an improvised bomb exploded. BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Solayman ominously added: "Grieve and mourn your dead. We will make no distinction between civilians and (soldiers). You create your own government."

GMA visits bomb scene

The attacks occurred 13 days before the first anniversary of the SuperFerry 14 bombing off Manila Bay, which killed more than 100 people.

The Abu Sayyaf had also claimed responsibility for that bombing.

Late last night, President Arroyo visited the scene of the Makati blast, looking grimly at what was left of the bombed out bus.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye condemned the bombings and added: "We ask the people to brace themselves against these attacks on our freedom and security."

'Bunye said the military and the police had tightened security in all public places and vital installations.

'We will be relentless'

"We shall not be intimidated ... We shall be relentless in our offensive against terror while keeping innocent civilians out of harm's way. The whole civilized world, including the Islamic countries, are with us in this righteous fight."

Minutes before the Makati blast, Ms Arroyo had been at the Marine chapel in Fort Bonifacio to attend the wake of the soldiers slain in Sulu.

General Abu, speaking on television, blamed the bombings on the Abu Sayyaf and the Misuari Breakaway Group, composed of guerrillas loyal to jailed rebel chief Nur Misuari.

"These are the handiwork of the MSGs and the [Abu Sayyaf]. They are working together."

He said the bombings were intended to divert the military's attention but declared the Armed Forces would not relent in its Jolo offensive.

Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay ordered police units, especially in urban centers, to secure their territories.

The General Santos explosion occurred at around 7 p.m. on a street outside the busy Gaisano Mall. The popular shopping center was teeming with people celebrating Valentine's Day.

The explosive was placed on a tricycle waiting for passengers outside the mall, said Chief Supt. Antonio Billones, Central Mindanao police chief.

Some of the victims were rushed to the St. Elizabeth Hospital, while others were brought to the Socsargen County Hospital.

Six people were confirmed wounded in the explosion outside the Ecoland terminal in Matina District in Davao City at 6:30 p.m., Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said.

He said the Ecoland explosion proved his earlier warnings about the city's vulnerability to terrorism.

"This was done by terrorists," he said.

A ghastly scene jarred an INQUIRER reporter when he looked inside the burned hulk of the RRCG bus, on which the Makati blast occurred.

One of the dead lay on the floor, unrecognizable and completely burned. It turned out later that it was a woman.

Another, a man, also severely burned, was still in his seat in the blown-off rear portion of the bus.

The bomb apparently exploded behind him.

The roof of the bus had been blown off.

The blast also damaged buses of the Gloren, De la Rosa and Roval companies.

In General Santos, Ustadz Pendi Colano of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Selatan Kutawato Revolutionary Command (SKRC), said the attack was an act of sabotage aimed at instilling fear among the city residents.

But he said that no MNLF member was involved in the explosion.

Public cooperation

City Mayor Pedro Acharon urged the residents to give their full cooperation to the military to prevent similar attacks.

"Local authorities have done their best but even the US, the most powerful country in the world, was not safe from terror attacks," he said. *Reports from Stella Gonzales, Cenon Bibe, Christian V. Esguerra, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Luige A. del Puerto and Irene C. Perez in Manila; and Joselle Badilla, Aquiles Zonio, Dennis Santos and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Tetangco new chief of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

From page A1

aggressive banking reforms in the country.

A mild-mannered and no-nonsense technocrat, Tetangco is the second career central bank executive to be named to the highest BSP post. The first was former BSP Governor Gabriel Singson who was appointed during the term of President Fidel V. Ramos.

Tetangco is an economist by training who rose from the ranks over the past 30 years. He is currently the BSP deputy governor in charge of the banking sector, economic research and treasury.

"Clearly, his three decades of experience at the BSP gives him unmatched advantage as he can hit the ground running, so to speak," Buenaventura said.

He said the appointment of Tetangco, his personal choice as successor, would eliminate speculation on the continuity of market reforms being pursued by the institution.

"Deputy Governor Tetangco is one of the principal architects of the far-reaching reforms the BSP is spearheading to foster the development of the domestic capital market, strengthen the banking sector, and amend the BSP charter to make it more responsive to the demands of a changing environment," Buenaventura said.

"Equally important, DG Tetangco is a professional central banker with extensive exposure here and abroad. An accomplished economist, he has served as my alternate at the Development Budget Coordinating Council, which counts the country's economic managers as members," he said.

Downgrade announcement

Ms Arroyo broke the news about her appointment of Tetangco during a call by Masayuki Matsushita of the Kansai Federation of Economic Organizations (Kankeirin) of Japan.

The President announced Buenaventura's replacement on the same day the latter told a forum of foreign correspondents that Moody's credit rating agency was poised to downgrade the country's credit rating by a notch within the month. *(See story on Page A1.)*

"We have a new economic team for the new Philippine economy," Ms Arroyo said after administering the oath to Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Trade Secretary Juan Santos, Intellectual Property Office Director General Adrian Cristobal Jr., and Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia de Lima.

Santos took over the post of Purisima, who replaced Juanita Amatong who retired from service. The President has also appointed Rafael Lotilla as energy secretary effective next month, as well as businessman Alberto Lina as customs commissioner.

"They have the full backing of the presidency in terms of political will and leadership," Ms Arroyo said.

"Their competence is proven. They will provide the continuity we need to shore up confidence, investments and growth."

Wealth of talent

She thanked her new appointees for joining the government to share their wealth of talent and experience. "This is an act of patriotism that will be appreciated by all Filipinos."

Tetangco thanked the President for her trust and confidence in his ability to head the BSP.

"There are others qualified to head the BSP. That the President chose a career officer of the BSP signals a strong vote of confidence in the ability of the BSP in particular and the bureaucracy in general to nurture leaders who serve the country," he said.

"In a larger sense, my designation also represents a validation that the BSP is on the right track in so far as implementing responsive monetary policy to achieve price stability and appropriate banking regulation to attain financial stability [is concerned]."

Tetangco vowed to continue the reforms started at the BSP along its mandate to ensure stable prices and a strong banking sector.

Pleased

Purisima said he was "very pleased" with Tetangco's appointment.

"I have had the opportunity to work closely with him in the past year and I was impressed with his maturity, keen knowledge of global monetary issues and his calm demeanor," he said.

"Governor Tetangco is a testament to the stewardship of Governor Buenaventura and his success in building a strong management team at the BSP. He is a well-known figure in the international central banking community and I'm looking forward to working closely with him."

Former BSP Governor Singson, now president and chair of JG Summit Capital Markets, said Tetangco's appointment was a vindication for all career officials in the BSP.

"I'm very happy with the choice because like me, he rose from the ranks and is already familiar with the organization and the people he's working with. I've worked with him for 30 years and he's very competent," Singson said.

Others considered by Malacañang for the top BSP post were former Trade Secretary Rizalino Navarro, former Philippine National Bank president Peter Favila, former Bank of the Philippine Islands president Xavier Loinaz, former Far East Bank and Trust Co. president Octavio Espiritu, Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Fe Barin, and former Development Bank of the Philippine president Simon Paterno.

Perfect choice

The banking community also welcomed Tetangco's appointment.

"It is a signal that reforms will continue along the same path started by the incumbent governor. It is a wise and popular choice," said Leonilo Coronel, executive director of the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

"Governor Say is an excellent choice. He is well-respected internationally. He knows the Philippine market well and he should have the support of both the banking sector and BSP officials," said BPI president Aurelio Montinola III.

In the Senate, the chair of the finance committee does not see any "radical change" in BSP policy.

Sen. Manuel Villar said Tetangco had been virtually running the BSP.

"Although he is the No. 2 man in the BSP, Gov. Rafael Buenaventura had delegated most of the work to him, so I don't expect any radical change in the BSP policy," Villar said.

Foreign loans, investments

Under his current responsibilities at the BSP, Tetangco is directly involved in the formulation and implementation of monetary and foreign exchange policy, including the conduct of open market operations and the management of the BSP's international reserves.

The monitoring and management of the country's external obligations, and the administration of existing policies on foreign loans and investments also fall under his area of responsibility.

Tetangco also looks after the BSP's domestic credit operations, particularly rediscounting and the other financing facilities available to banks and other financial institutions, and the management and disposition of acquired assets.

He also oversees the bank's cash operations that include the issuance, distribution, and retirement of currency notes and coins in the country.

He sits in various boards, including the National Economic and Development Authority Board, National Food Authority Council, and the Industrial Guarantee and Loan Fund Review Committee as the representative of BSP.

Before joining the old Central Bank of the Philippines in 1974, Tetangco worked with the Management Services Division of SGV & Co. for about one year.

IMF stint

While with the central bank, Tetangco had served as alternate executive director of the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C. in 1992-94. There, he participated in the IMF Executive Board and was involved in providing economic policy advice to various governments.

He has also been closely involved in the activities of various international and regional organizations, including the Executive Meeting of East Asia and Pacific Central Banks, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), Asean + 3, South East Asia Central Banks, and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in the promotion of regional cooperation, like the Asian Bond Fund and the Asean Swap Arrangement and economic and financial surveillance of member countries.

Tetangco finished AB Economics at the Ateneo de Manila University (cum laude) where he also took graduate courses in business administration. He obtained his MA in Public Policy and Administration (concentration in development economics) at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin, USA as a Central Bank scholar.

He is married to Elvira Ma. Plana with whom he has three kids: one boy and two girls. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

RP expects new credit downgrade by Moody's

From page A1

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

A credit downgrade increases the cost of the country's borrowings.

At a forum sponsored by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines yesterday, Buenaventura said Moody's would likely cut the country's sovereign credit rating by one notch with a "stable" outlook.

But he did not rule out a downgrade by two notches.

A one-notch downgrade would match the move last month of rival ratings firm Standard and Poor's, which cited the perceived failure to boost the government's precarious fiscal position as the reason for its decision.

RAFAEL BUENAVENTURA exits in July, leaving behind a legacy of downgrades from ratings agencies. PDI PHOTO

Moody's is expected to release its latest sovereign credit ratings in the next few weeks.

Despite recent favorable economic developments, the BSP chief said the imminent one-notch downgrade could be accompanied by a "negative" outlook.

"We'll just have to hold our breath and hope that we'll get a reasonable rating. The chances are we'll still have a one notch downgrade but what I'm hoping for is that they'll give us a stable outlook," Buenaventura said.

A "negative" outlook means that a downgrade is likely in the near term, while a "positive" outlook indicates a possible upgrade. A "stable" outlook means that the current rating will likely be kept.

Power rate hike

The two main issues on Moody's radar before it comes out with a rating for the Philippines are the revenue measures sought by Malacañang from Congress and a three-step increase in electricity rates to ease the subsidy burden on the government, Buenaventura said.

He noted that two-thirds of the electricity rate increases sought by the government had already been implemented. However, Moody's would be waiting for the final rate increase as well as movement on the auction of the generating and transmission assets of loss-making state utility National Power Corp.

Moody's last downgraded the country's sovereign credit rating by one notch to Ba2 in January last year, during which it likewise changed the outlook from "stable" to "negative."

This rating, which is two notches below investment grade, means the issuer has a "substantial" credit risk, particularly as a result of adverse economic change over time, but business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.

The Philippines was one of the only four countries downgraded by Moody's last year and one of the eight which was given a negative outlook amid the slow pace of fiscal reforms in the country.

Not enough

Buenaventura said that while the delisting of the Philippines from the Financial Action Task Force against money laundering's watch list of "uncooperative" countries on Friday was another positive development for the country, it was not enough to prevent a credit rating downgrade from Moody's.

"As far as the Moody's rating, the FATF delisting always helps but the principal concern has always been on the sustainability of our revenues so I guess a lot still depends on how confident are they of our competence that we will achieve the revenue measures," he said.

"The question is how much revenue will we generate by the time they (Congress) finalize the laws. Remember that we committed to at least P80 billion in new revenues but it would be nice if we could get it sooner rather than later," the BSP chief said. *With a report from AFP*

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Suspected drug lord refuses to enter plea

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Kalibo Regional Trial Court entered a not guilty plea for suspected drug lord Jose Kim Cuadra after he refused to participate in the proceedings at his arraignment yesterday.

Judge Marietta Homena-Valencia of Kalibo RTC Branch 1 ordered, the plea entered in Cuadra's behalf after the accused's lawyer, Edgar Peralta, questioned the arraignment and the resumption of the drug trial of his client.

Peralta said Valencia's May 6, 2004, order suspending the trial pending resolution of their petition for review in the Court of Appeals should remain "because there was no apparent reason" to lift it.

Cuadra petitioned the CA on May 10 last year to review the Department of Justice's dismissal of his plea for review of the Aklan provincial prosecutor's amendment of the charge against him. He said the DOJ had committed grave abuse of discretion.

Prosecutors had filed a case of possession of illegal drugs against Cuadra but later amended it to transport of illegal drugs. The latter offense is non-bailable and is punishable by life imprisonment or death.

Cuadra was arrested on April 22, 2003, at the Caticlan airport after vacationing on Boracay island in Aklan. Police allegedly found 12.7 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) in his possession. He claimed the drugs were planted on him and that he was framed.

In a six-page resolution issued on Jan. 6, 2005, the CA's 18th Division based in Cebu City junked Cuadra's petition. Peralta said they appealed the ruling on Jan. 28.

Peralta said his client believed the resumption of the trial may have been prompted by the deadly rampage of PO1 Jonathan Moreño on Jan. 16 in Kalibo, where eight persons were killed and 31 wounded.

Moreño was one of the policemen who arrested Cuadra at the airport. A police psychologist said Moreño may have been under tremendous pressure to withdraw as a witness against Cuadra.

Germany seeks fast payment for Naia 3

GERMANY has urged the Philippines to compensate German airport operator Fraport AG for an expropriated airport terminal project, warning failure to do so would discourage future foreign investment, the German Embassy said yesterday.

German Ambassador Axel Weishaupt met with Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo late last month to convey Berlin's concern on the issue "and the political signal it may send to future investors in the Philippines," the statement said.

The Philippines last month assured it will fairly compensate the Filipino, Japanese and German builders of the new international terminal in Manila after the government took control of the facility.

The Supreme Court has ruled that the 1997 contract with Philippine International Air Terminals Co., or Piatco, to build and operate the terminal was void because Piatco had insufficient funds. A lower court has since allowed the government to take over the terminal.

Frankfurt airport's operator Fraport AG owns a substantial stake in Piatco, which says it invested $650 million in the project. It was not clear if the government intended to repay the full investment.

Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo said last month the government has paid a preliminary deposit to a local court of about P3.125 billion pending a full audit and inspection of the facility.

The embassy statement said Germany would appreciate "a speedy and mutually satisfactory solution" to maintain Philippine-German relations and to avoid damaging the Philippines' reputation among foreign investors.

Fraport said yesterday that the Philippine government has "never offered" to compensate it for its losses after Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 was expropriated in December.

"Fraport wishes to set the record straight in light of a misleading briefing last month by Philippine government officials to the foreign diplomatic corps stationed in Manila regarding the new Passenger Terminal 3... The government of the Philippines has never offered to compensate Fraport for its lost investment in Terminal 3," the company said in a one-page statement sent to the media late yesterday afternoon.

Fraport is seeking a compensation of $425 million from the Philippine government, the amount it invested in the Naia 3 project. *Reports by AP and Nikko Dizon*

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ATMOR

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, February 15, 2005
1st Week of Lent

1st Reading: **Is 55:10-11**
Gospel: **Matthew 6:7-15**

Jesus said to his disciples, "When you pray, do not use a lot of words, as the pagans do, for they hold that the more they say, the more chance they have of being heard. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need, even before you ask him.

"This, then, is how you should pray:
Our Father in heaven,
holy be your name,
your kingdom come
and your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today the kind of bread we need.
Forgive us our debts
just as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us.
Do not bring us to the test
but deliver us from the evil one.

"If you forgive others their wrongs, your Father in heaven will also forgive yours. If you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive you either."

Commentary

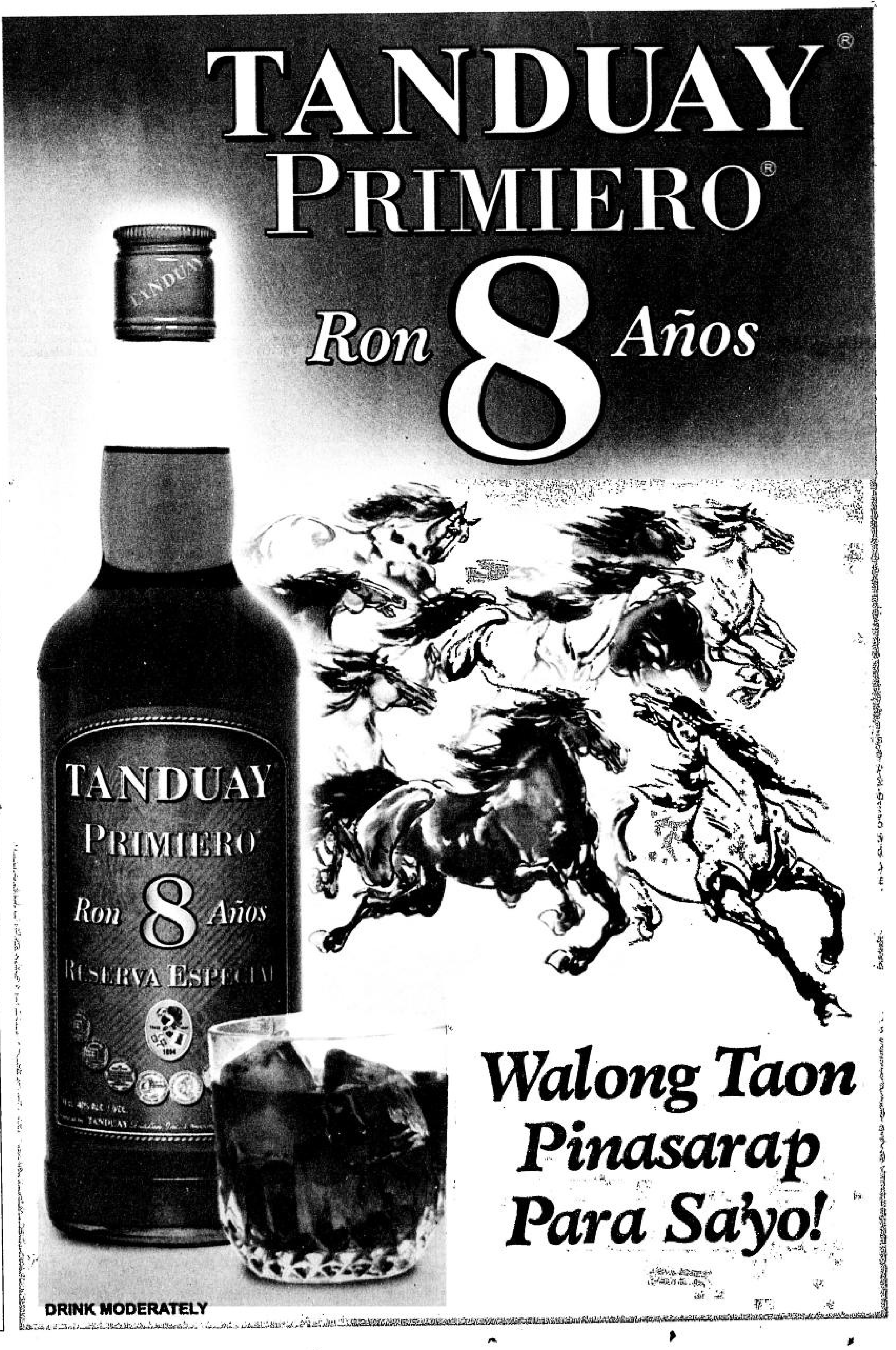
God's word is fruitful, faithful, commanding, demanding and like the air, the rain and snow we must learn to obey and bring forth bread, seed, truth and hope from our lives as we hear God's word that is so potent for transformation and substance. Are we food for others to eat? Are we obedient to our baptismal promises and the Word of the Scriptures? Do our lives bring life, freshness and promise for the future for others? This is the practice of Jesus' prayer, our prayer to Our Father: God's will for justice, peace and no violence and word comes first. We worship God in sharing our bread, trusting in God while we give it away today; we must forgive as often and graciously as we have been and are being forgiven by our God and we must know that we are passing through a test—this world that does not honor God or make justice a norm and we must be faithful through it all and not succumb to what is evil. God is forgiveness and it is given to us but if we do not pass it on, giving life and hope to others, it returns to God, taken back from our heart and hand. Word of God, make us forgiving, giving of bread and peace this day and every day. Amen.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (OBLIGATIONS AND CONTRACTS)—Contract of adhesion—A contract of adhesion is so-called because its terms are prepared by only one party while the other party merely affixes his signature signifying his adhesion thereto. While we accede to the appellate court's conclusion that the new promissory note was in the nature of a contract of adhesion, we cannot fathom how this can further the respondents' case. A contract of adhesion is just as binding as ordinary contracts. It is true that we have, on occasion, struck down such contracts as void when the weaker party is imposed upon in dealing with the dominant bargaining party and is reduced to the alternative of taking it or leaving it, completely deprived of the opportunity to bargain on equal footing. Nevertheless, contracts of adhesion are not invalid per se; they are not entirely prohibited. The one who adheres to the contract is in reality free to reject it entirely; if he adheres, he gives his consent. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Callejo, Sr., Second Division, Development Bank of the Philippines vs Perez, G. R. No. 148541, November 11, 2004]

By R. B. Vera



Erap wants to move ...

From page A1

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From page A1

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As the vision continued, Sister Lucia saw the Pope reaching the top of a mountain where "he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him."

Before the Vatican unveiled the vision, papal envoys visited Sister Lucia in her cloistered convent to seek her opinion of the Vatican's interpretation and her permission to reveal it.

"She repeated her conviction that the vision of Fatima concerns above all the struggle of atheistic communism against the Church and against Christians, and describes the terrible sufferings of the victims of the faith in 20th century," a Vatican document said in 2000.

The document went on to say: "When asked: 'Is the principal figure in the vision the Pope?' Sister Lucia replied at once that it was."

Religious persecution

Sister Lucia was born the youngest of seven children in a peasant family in Aljustrel, a village in central Portugal.

The events at Fatima unfolded against a backdrop of religious persecution under anticlerical factions that ruled Portugal after the overthrow of the monarchy in 1910.

In 1916 she experienced her first vision, when an angel appeared to her and her two cousins, Sister Lucia wrote in her memoirs.

On May 13, 1917, the Virgin Mary appeared to her and her cousins on an oak tree. On the Virgin Mary's last appearance before an estimated 50,000 onlookers in October of the same year, witnesses claimed to have experienced a 15-minute spectacle of bright lights and rainbow colors.

In her memoirs, Sister Lucia said the Virgin Mary appeared to her and her two cousins six times in 1917. Jacinta and Francisco died in the influenza pandemic in 1919 and 1920.

Francisco and Jacinta were beatified, the last step to sainthood, by Pope John Paul II during his Fatima visit in May 2000. It was also the last time that Sister Lucia spoke in public. Sister Lucia as well.

Reports from AFP and Reuters

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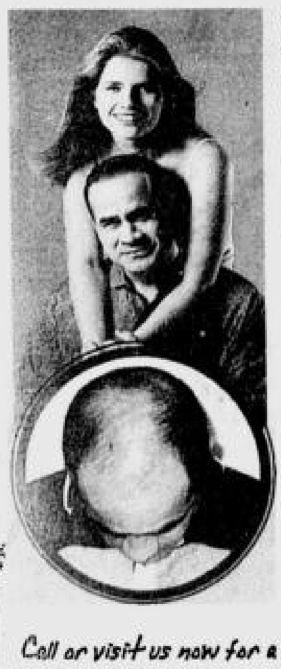

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'I saw my father die beside me'

From page A1

the Malate School clinic where my mother and sister could be treated. But he took us there first the better to assist my wounded mother and sister who had difficulty walking. He fully intended to return for my mother and sister Paz.

Shelling intensifies

But on our way to the clinic, the shelling had intensified and we had to take shelter at the San Andres market. My father just had time to cover us his children with corrugated iron sheets to protect us from falling shrapnel, when I heard a loud cry. I lifted the iron sheet which covered me and saw that he had been hit by a large piece of shrapnel, blood oozing from his stomach.

Died instantly

And he died right there.

We couldn't do anything but leave my father where he was killed. I couldn't even go to tell my mother what had happened to my father. Someone I don't remember now was trying to herd us to safety toward the Plaza Lawton bridge where the Americans were.

I learned much later that the Americans had made it their priority to rush to the Sto. Tomas University where American and British families were incarcerated.

We walked toward Paco where we spent the night. I prayed to the Virgin Mother and felt her mantle of protection over us. By then, I had lost the knapsack of food that I had and I clung only to a small crucifix which had the figure of Our Lord, standing over a skull.

Dr. Fe del Mundo

At dawn on the 14th, I saw my aunt, Dr. Fe del Mundo, with some Filipino and American soldiers. She was then the director of the North General Hospital (now the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital) where my mother and sister had been taken to treat their wounds. My aunt took us children with her.

At the hospital, I saw my mother sobbing over Paz, who was dying because there was no antitetanus serum to be found. She was only 18 years old. I supposed that it was in the hospital that my mother learned about my father's death. She had to bear the pain of losing her husband and her daughter in one day.

My mother tried to retrieve his body. But I learned later that the remains of the victims in the San Andres area, which were not immediately recovered by their families, had been burned. My mother got only my father's bones.

Father idolized

My father was 43 years old when he died. He was my idol. He was a brilliant chemist, in the prime of his life. He was the first Filipino "*pensionado*" to Berlin, the first summa cum laude when he got his degree of Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of the Philippines.

The National Institute of Science and Technology and the UP Chemical Society gave him a posthumous award for distinguished accomplishments in chemistry.

He studied in Berlin and observed ceramic factories in Munich, Leipzig, Copenhagen, Vienna, Budapest and Prague. For his dream was to manufacture tiles and bricks for Filipino homes at affordable prices, especially for the poor.

Del Mundo tiles

It was not just the razing of our home roofed with Del Mundo tiles that was our loss. It was the quenching of an exceptionally gifted, creative and inventive mind at the Bureau of Science, where he manufactured glass from sugar bagasse ash.

He found another formula for the manufacture of sulfuric acid.

Samples of his work and his research papers were all burned during the war.

While he worked at the Bureau of Science, he lectured on General Chemistry, Technical Analysis and Physical Chemistry at the UST.

He awakened the minds of his students to the wonders of his specialty.

He was fluent in Tagalog, Spanish, English and German. Because of their high esteem for him, German sisters from the College of the Holy Spirit who were writing their doctoral dissertations at the UST chose me as their candidate for a scholarship to a Dominican College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

After work and before dinner, he would play the music of classical composers on the piano. Also adept with the violin and guitar, he served as organist of the Manila Cathedral even while still a grade school student.

My father told us that a man should know everything about one thing and something about everything.

It was left to my mother to pick up the pieces of our shattered lives. The task was backbreaking, for we were left with almost nothing after the war. I would accompany my mother daily for one year to the North Cemetery where my father's bones were interred. She would weep at night when she thought that her children were asleep, uncertain as she was of their future.

My mother resumed her teaching of chemistry at Centro Escolar University where she taught for 50 years and at the UST.

Today, her children have retired from their careers—Salvador Jr. as a chemical engineer, Josefina as a pediatric neurologist in Seattle, Elisa as a businesswoman, and I, after 38 years in the Philippine foreign service, capping my career as ambassador to Sweden, with non-resident jurisdiction over Norway, Denmark, Finland and the three Baltic republics.

Before my father died, I sensed that he had bargained with the Supreme Being, that if a life had to be taken, it should be his and that the lives of his wife and children be spared.

My mother passed away a year ago, at the age of 103. She had stayed on this side of life for a long time, to be with her children. Whose was the greater sacrifice, my father's or my mother's? They had left examples of integrity, honesty, service to society and even lessons in renunciation for us to follow.

At school in Radcliffe and Tulane and in my postings abroad, I tried to live up to my father's standards. I feel that I must do a little more good, especially for the poor, in this last quarter of my life.

At daily Mass, as I bring my parents' intentions to the Life who died. I pray that He hold them in His keeping. Their love and sacrifice for us affords me, in rare moments, a glimpse of God's infinite and unconditional love, as I, struggling human being that I am, try to walk their walk, in this transition from our earthly to our heavenly home.

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Fax: 817 9671
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Seminar Schedule:

9:30 am to 11:00 am – Canadian Immigration overview
11:30 am to 1:00 pm – New Zealand Immigration overview

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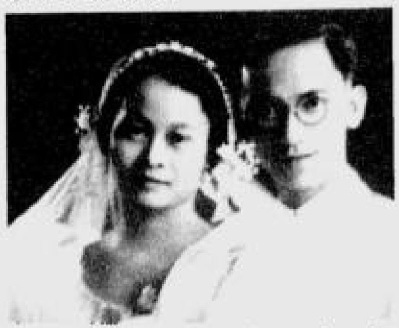
Correction



IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the caption of a front page photo that accompanied the story, "Holocaust in Manila: Massacre of Agustinians, San Juan de Dios staff," mistakenly identified the couple as Dr. Antonio Lahoz and his first wife, Benita. In the photo were Dr. Manuel Lahoz and his second wife, Monica Laquindanum.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

Erap wants to move …

From page A1

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From page A1

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The document went on to say: "When asked: 'Is the principal figure in the vision the Pope?' Sister Lucia replied at once that it was."

Religious persecution

Sister Lucia was born the youngest of seven children in a peasant family in Aljustrel, a village in central Portugal.

The events at Fatima unfolded against a backdrop of religious persecution under anticlerical factions that ruled Portugal after the overthrow of the monarchy in 1910.

In 1916 she experienced her first vision, when an angel appeared to her and her two cousins, Sister Lucia wrote in her memoirs.

On May 13, 1917, the Virgin Mary appeared to her and her cousins on an oak tree. On the Virgin Mary's last appearance before an estimated 50,000 onlookers in October of the same year, witnesses claimed to have experienced a 15-minute spectacle of bright lights and rainbow colors.

In her memoirs, Sister Lucia said the Virgin Mary appeared to her and her two cousins six times in 1917. Jacinta and Francisco died in the influenza pandemic in 1919 and 1920.

Francisco and Jacinta were beatified, the last step to sainthood, by Pope John Paul II during his Fatima visit in May 2000. It was also the last time that Sister Lucia spoke in public. Sister Lucia as well.

Reports from AFP and Reuters

'I saw my father die beside me'

From page A1

the Malate School clinic where my mother and sister could be treated. But he took us there first, the better to assist my wounded mother and sister who had difficulty walking. He fully intended to return for my mother and sister Paz.

Shelling intensifies

But on our way to the clinic, the shelling had intensified and we had to take shelter at the San Andres market. My father just had time to cover us his children with corrugated iron sheets to protect us from falling shrapnel, when I heard a loud cry. I lifted the iron sheet which covered me and saw that he had been hit by a large piece of shrapnel, blood oozing from his stomach.

Died instantly

And he died right there.

We couldn't do anything but leave my father where he was killed. I couldn't even go to tell my mother what had happened to my father. Someone I don't remember now was trying to herd us to safety toward the Plaza Lawton bridge where the Americans were.

I learned much later that the Americans had made it their priority to rush to the Sto. Tomas University where American and British families were incarcerated.

We walked toward Paco where we spent the night. I prayed to the Virgin Mother and felt her mantle of protection over us. By then, I had lost the knapsack of food that I had and I clung only to a small crucifix which had the figure of Our Lord, standing over a skull.

Dr. Fe del Mundo

At dawn on the 14th, I saw my aunt, Dr. Fe del Mundo, with some Filipino and American soldiers. She was then the director of the North General Hospital (now the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital) where my mother and sister had been taken to treat their wounds. My aunt took us children with her.

At the hospital, I saw my mother sobbing over Paz, who was dying because there was no antitetanus serum to be found. She was only 18 years old. I supposed that it was in the hospital that my mother learned about my father's death. She had to bear the pain of losing her husband and her daughter in one day.

My mother tried to retrieve his body. But I learned later that the remains of the victims in the San Andres area, which were not immediately recovered by their families, had been burned. My mother got only my father's bones.

Father idolized

My father was 43 years old when he died. He was my idol. He was a brilliant chemist, in the prime of his life. He was the first Filipino "*pensionado*" to Berlin, the first summa cum laude when he got his degree of Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of the Philippines.

The National Institute of Science and Technology and the UP Chemical Society gave him a posthumous award for distinguished accomplishments in chemistry.

He studied in Berlin and observed ceramic factories in Munich, Leipzig, Copenhagen, Vienna, Budapest and Prague. For his dream was to manufacture tiles and bricks for Filipino homes at affordable prices, especially for the poor.

Del Mundo tiles

It was not just the razing of our home roofed with Del Mundo tiles that was our loss. It was the quenching of an exceptionally gifted, creative and inventive mind at the Bureau of Science, where he manufactured glass from sugar bagasse ash.

He found another formula for the manufacture of sulfuric acid.

Samples of his work and his research papers were all burned during the war.

While he worked at the Bureau of Science, he lectured on General Chemistry, Technical Analysis and Physical Chemistry at the UST.

He awakened the minds of his students to the wonders of his specialty.

He was fluent in Tagalog, Spanish, English and German. Because of their high esteem for him, German sisters from the College of the Holy Spirit who were writing their doctoral dissertations at the UST chose me as their candidate for a scholarship to a Dominican College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

After work and before dinner, he would play the music of classical composers on the piano. Also adept with the violin and guitar, he served as organist of the Manila Cathedral even while still a grade school student.

My father told us that a man should know everything about one thing and something about everything.

It was left to my mother to pick up the pieces of our shattered lives. The task was backbreaking, for we were left with almost nothing after the war. I would accompany my mother daily for one year to the North Cemetery where my father's bones were interred. She would weep at night when she thought that her children were asleep, uncertain as she was of their future.

My mother resumed her teaching of chemistry at Centro Escolar University where she taught for 50 years and at the UST.

Today, her children have retired from their careers—Salvador Jr. as a chemical engineer, Josefina as a pediatric neurologist in Seattle, Elisa as a businesswoman, and I, after 38 years in the Philippine foreign service, capping my career as ambassador to Sweden, with non-resident jurisdiction over Norway, Denmark, Finland and the three Baltic republics.

Before my father died, I sensed that he had bargained with the Supreme Being, that if a life had to be taken, it should be his and that the lives of his wife and children be spared.

My mother passed away a year ago, at the age of 103. She had stayed on this side of life for a long time, to be with her children. Whose was the greater sacrifice, my father's or my mother's? They had left examples of integrity, honesty, service to society and even lessons in renunciation for us to follow.

At school in Radcliffe and Tulane and in my postings abroad, I tried to live up to my father's standards. I feel that I must do a little more good, especially for the poor, in this last quarter of my life.

At daily Mass, as I bring my parents' intentions to the Life who died, I pray that He hold them in His keeping. Their love and sacrifice for us affords me, in rare moments, a glimpse of God's infinite and unconditional love, as I, struggling human being that I am, try to walk their walk, in this transition from our earthly to our heavenly home.

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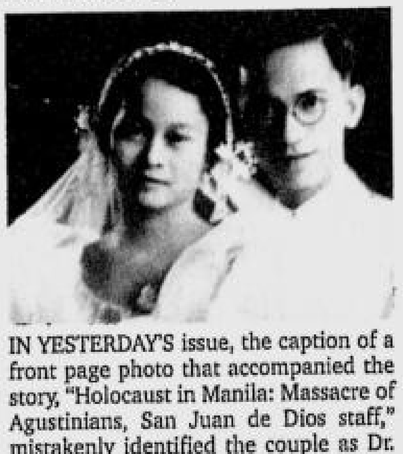

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the caption of a front page photo that accompanied the story, "Holocaust in Manila: Massacre of Agustinians, San Juan de Dios staff," mistakenly identified the couple as Dr. Antonio Lahoz and his first wife, Benita. In the photo were Dr. Manuel Lahoz and his second wife, Monica Laquindanum.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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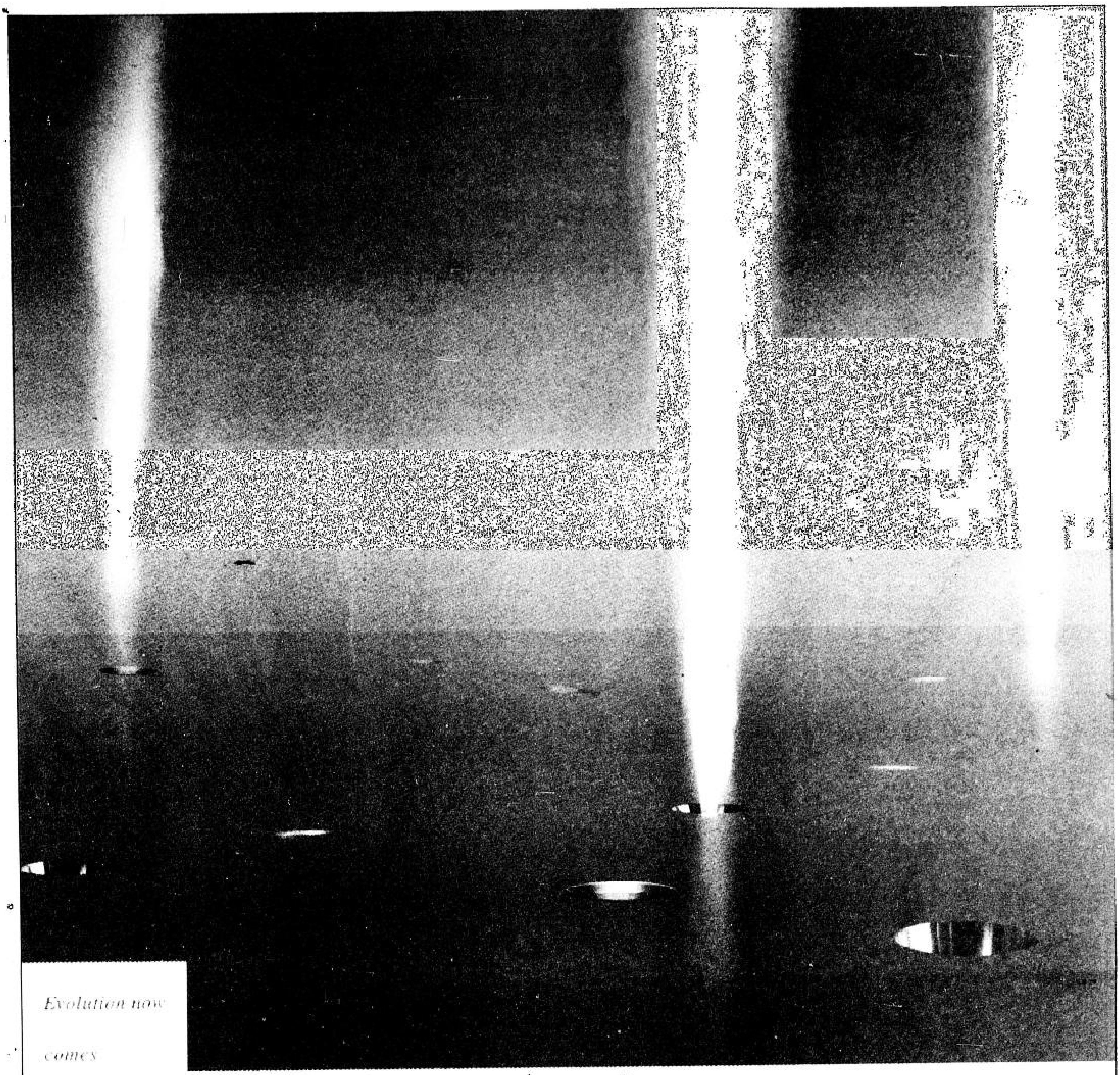

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The WORLD

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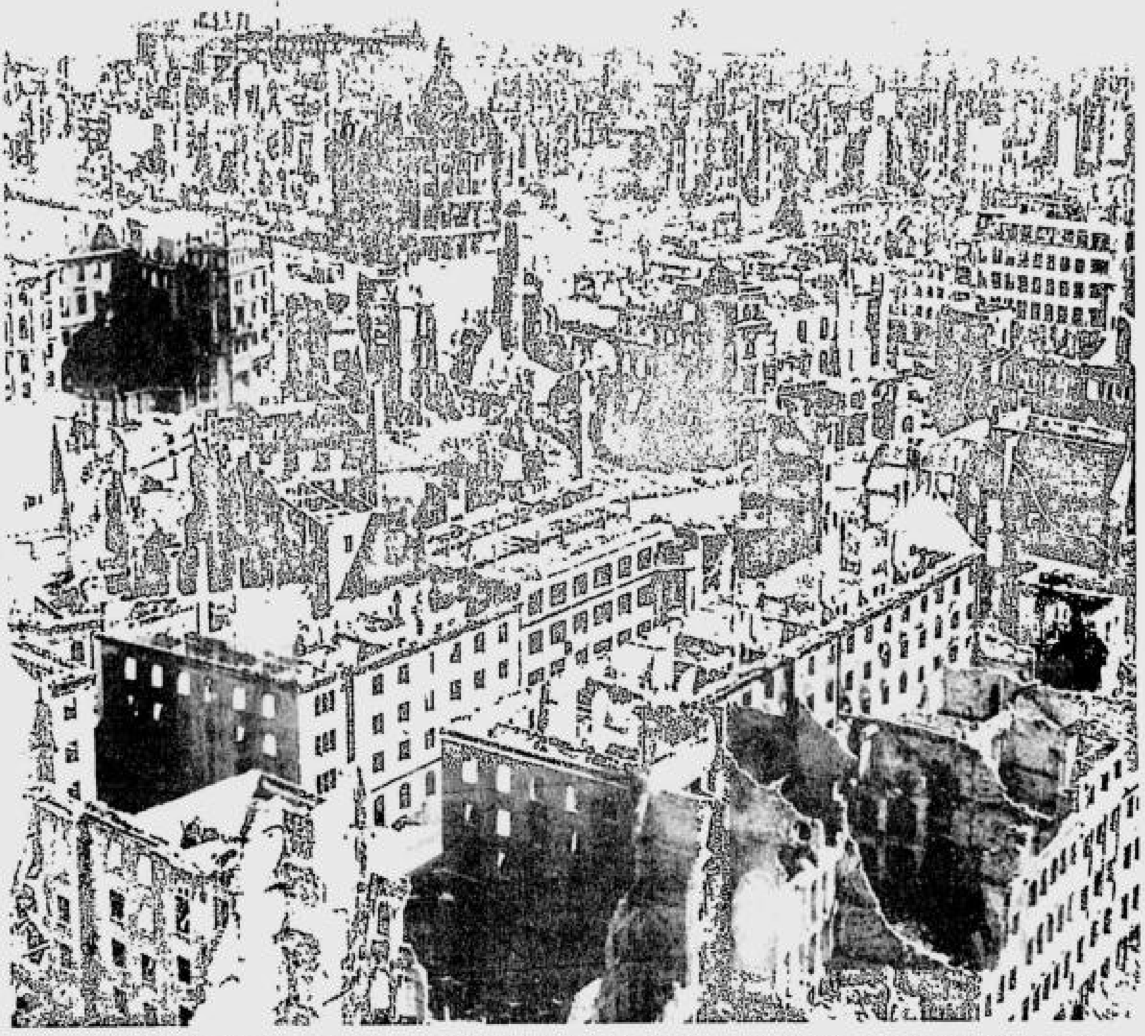

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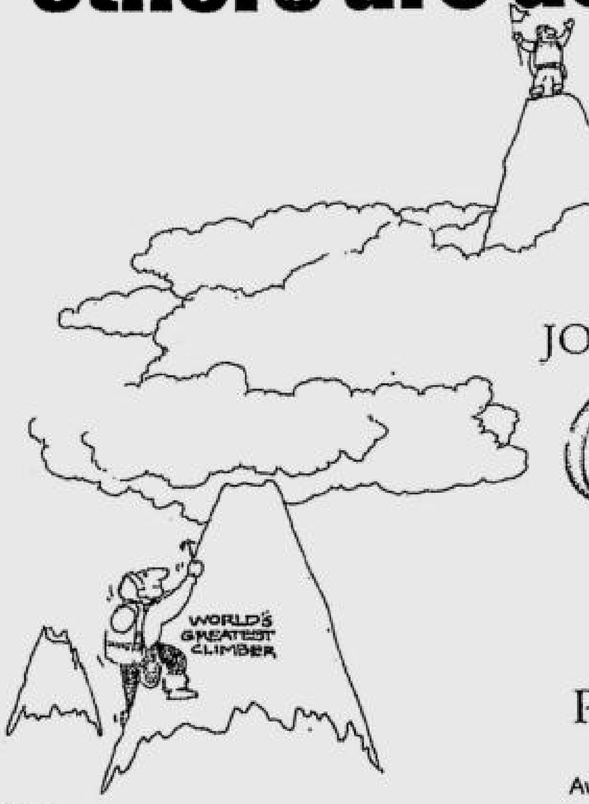

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After referencing the car accident a few years ago that almost took his life, West promised to live life to the fullest: "I plan to celebrate and scream and pop champagne every chance I get because I'M AT THE GRAMMYS BABY!"

He also referenced his American Music Awards embarrassment. "Everybody wanted to know what would I do if I didn't win. I guess we'll never know," he said, holding his trophy up high.

At least West didn't have to wait decades to get a trophy, as did some veterans finally honored by the Recording Academy.

Steve Earle's left-leaning "The Revolution Starts... Now" won for contemporary folk album. And Rod Stewart—who had complained in recent years about never winning a Grammy—won for traditional pop vocal album for his standards recording "Stardust... The Great American Songbook Vol. III."

Brian Wilson, who released his album "Smile" after a more than three-decade wait, won best rock instrumental performance for "Mrs. O'Leary's Cow." He had never been honored before, even as leader of The Beach Boys. The big irony: the man who did more for vocal harmony than anyone in rock 'n' roll won in an instrumental category.

"I waited 42 years for this Grammy and it was well worth the wait," Wilson said backstage. "It represents triumph and achievement in music that I feel that I deserved, and I'm really glad I won."

The oft-maligned Britney Spears also won her first Grammy—best dance recording for "Toxic."

Spears wasn't present, but another newlywed was on hand: Jennifer Lopez performed a duet in Spanish with new husband Marc Anthony, their first public performance together. *AP*

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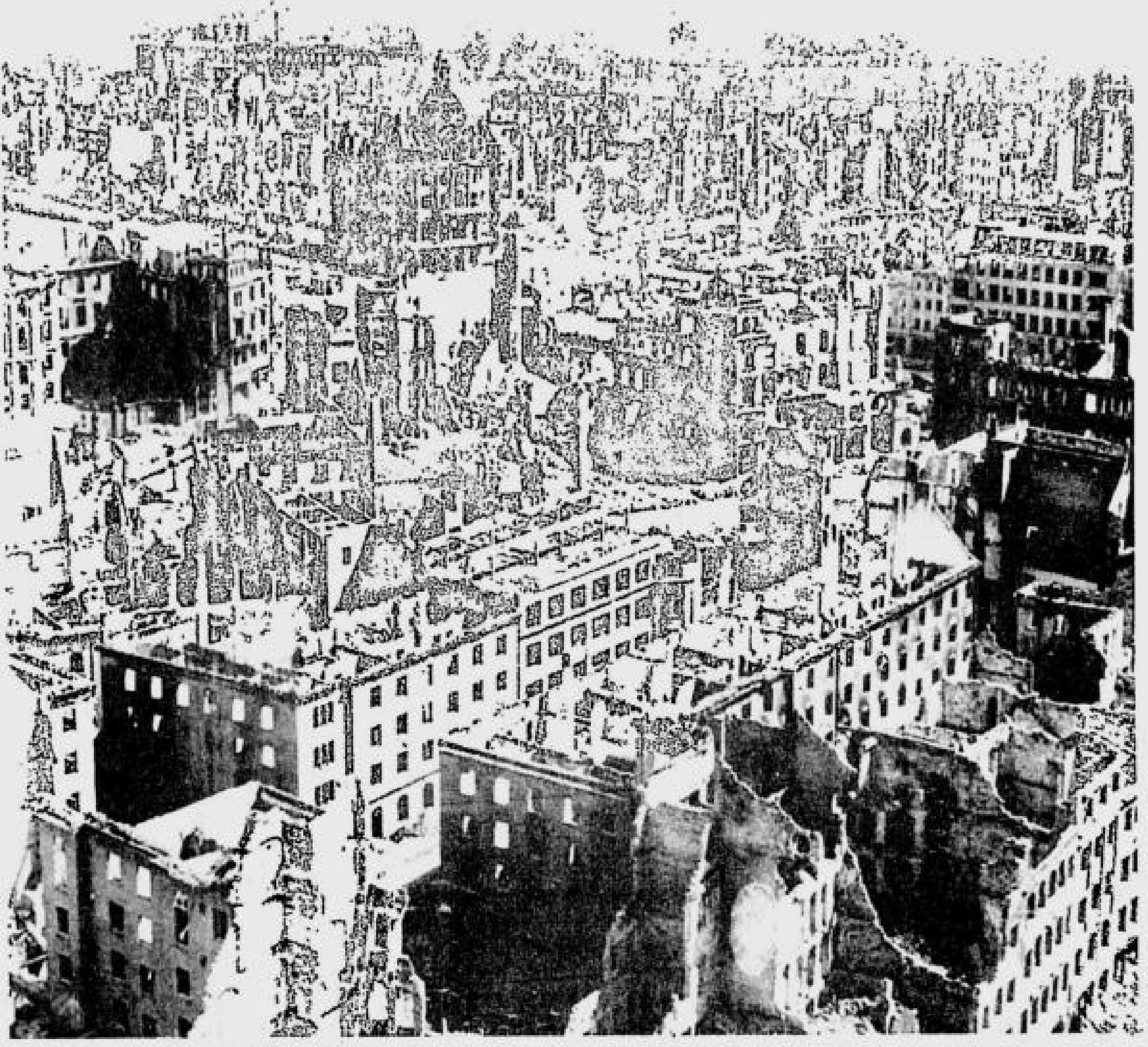

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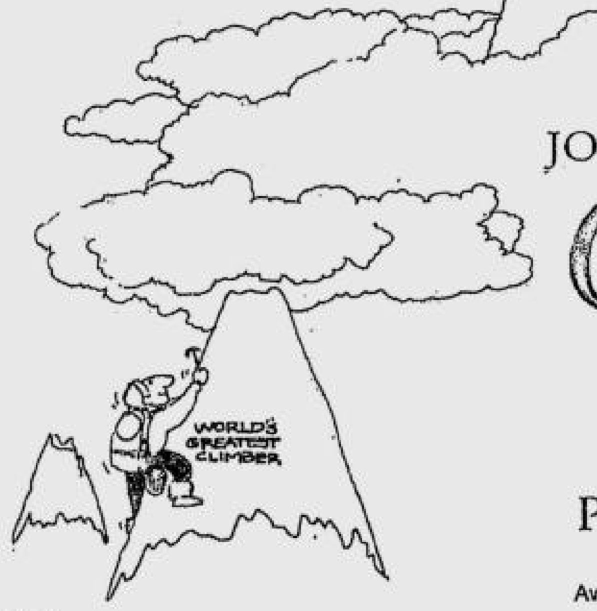

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"Kanye West, I want to thank you so much for being wonderful," he said. Soon afterward, the camera cut away to West, who looked less than pleased.

Some expected West to have a meltdown like at the American Music Awards, where he complained bitterly backstage after losing the same award to Wilson. But he went on to deliver an eye-popping performance of "Jesus Walks" and an emotional acceptance speech for the best rap album award.

After referencing the car accident a few years ago that almost took his life, West promised to live life to the fullest: "I plan to celebrate and scream and pop champagne every chance I get because I'M AT THE GRAMMYS BABY!"

He also referenced his American Music Awards embarrassment. "Everybody wanted to know what would I do if I didn't win. I guess we'll never know," he said, holding his trophy up high.

At least West didn't have to wait decades to get a trophy, as did some veterans finally honored by the Recording Academy.

Steve Earle's left-leaning "The Revolution Starts... Now" won for contemporary folk album. And Rod Stewart—who had complained in recent years about never winning a Grammy—won for traditional pop vocal album for his standards recording "Stardust... The Great American Songbook Vol. III."

Brian Wilson, who released his album "Smile" after a more than three-decade wait, won best rock instrumental performance for "Mrs. O'Leary's Cow." He had never been honored before, even as leader of The Beach Boys. The big irony: the man who did more for vocal harmony than anyone in rock 'n' roll won in an instrumental category.

"I waited 42 years for this Grammy and it was well worth the wait," Wilson said backstage. "It represents triumph and achievement in music that I feel that I deserved, and I'm really glad I won."

The oft-maligned Britney Spears also won her first Grammy—best dance recording for "Toxic."

Spears wasn't present, but another newlywed was on hand: Jennifer Lopez performed a duet in Spanish with new husband Marc Anthony, their first public performance together. *AP*

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War with Israel effectively over, says Abbas

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—The new Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, said in an interview that the war with the Israelis was effectively over and that the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, was speaking "a different language" to the Palestinians.

Sharon's commitment to withdraw from Gaza and dismantle all Israeli settlements there and four in the West Bank, despite "how much pressure is on him from the Israeli Likud rightists," Abbas said, "is a good sign to start with" on the road to real peace. "And now he has a partner."

Israel acted further on Sunday to improve relations by agreeing to release a first batch of 500 prisoners.

In an interview in his Gaza office Saturday night, Abbas spoke with pride about persuading the radical groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad to respect the truce that he and Sharon announced Tuesday in Sharm el Sheik, Egypt. Theirs was the highest-level meeting between Israelis and Palestinians in four years.

Abbas said the war with the Israelis will be over "when the Israelis declare that they will comply with the agreement I made in Sharm el Sheik, and today our comrades in Hamas and Jihad said they are committed to the truce, the cooling down of the whole situation, and I believe we will start a new era."

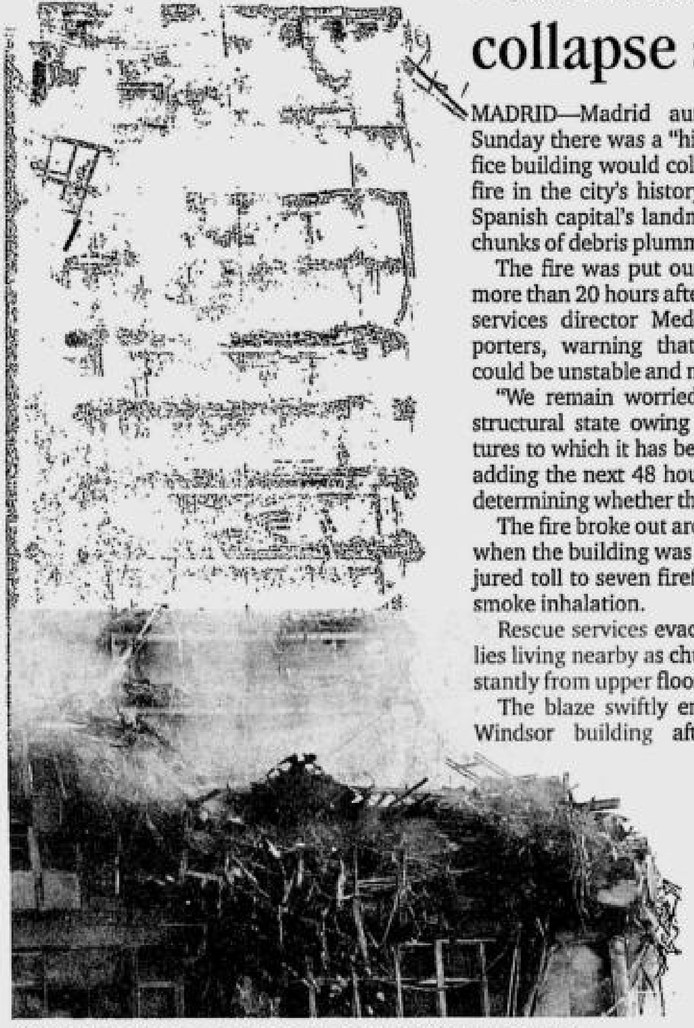
In his first interview with a Western news organization since he was elected president of the Palestinian Authority just five weeks ago, Abbas spoke with optimism, confidence and humor in nearly fluent English.

He said he wants progress to continue so that both sides can move quickly to political discussions about the road map, a diplomatic process meant to lead to tackling the most difficult issues that have deeply sty-mied both sides: questions of final borders, refugees, Jerusalem and now, "President Bush's initiative about a democratic Palestinian state," Abbas said.

The Israelis say Abbas started slowly and timidly, but has done better since taking charge of the Palestinian government, showing more courage when challenged; Abbas contends much has been accomplished, given the deterioration of the Palestinian Authority under Yasser Arafat, "but we can't negotiate everything in 10 days."

Was the intifada of the past four and a half years a mistake? "We cannot say it was a mistake," Abbas said. "But any war will have an end. And what is the end? To sit around the table and talk. And they realize that this is the time to come to the table and talk and negotiate." *New York Times News Service*

Fears raised huge building faces collapse after biggest fire in Madrid



SMOKE rises from a blackened Windsor Building, a 32-story skyscraper in the heart of Madrid's commercial district. REUTERS

MADRID—Madrid authorities warned on Sunday there was a "high risk" a 31-story office building would collapse after the biggest fire in the city's history engulfed one of the Spanish capital's landmarks sending flaming chunks of debris plummeting to the street.

The fire was put out shortly after 8 p.m., more than 20 hours after it began, firefighting services director Medardo Tudela told reporters, warning that the building's shell could be unstable and might collapse.

"We remain worried about the building's structural state owing to the high temperatures to which it has been subjected," he said, adding the next 48 hours would be crucial in determining whether the structure would fall.

The fire broke out around 11 p.m. Saturday when the building was empty, limiting the injured toll to seven firefighters suffering from smoke inhalation.

Rescue services evacuated dozens of families living nearby as chunks of debris fell constantly from upper floors.

The blaze swiftly engulfed the 106-meter Windsor building after apparently being sparked by a short circuit on the 21st floor, firefighters said.

Throughout the night clouds of thick black smoke shrouded the building on the Castellana Avenue, a key Madrid thoroughfare.

Madrid mayor Alberto Ruiz Gallardon told reporters that "we are looking at the biggest fire in Madrid's history.

"It is not the worst, as, fortunately, there are no deaths or serious injuries," he added.

Police set up a security cordon around the site and Gallardon ordered a halt to all commercial and business activities in the vicinity up to and including Wednesday.

Madrid police chief Constantino Mendez said even if the building didn't collapse "it will have to be demolished because it's in ruins."

The dean of Madrid's architectural college, Ricardo Aroca told the Europa Press news agency he believed it "not very likely" the edifice would collapse given its thick concrete supports. *AFP*

US nun shot dead in Brazil's Amazon

BRASILIA, Brazil—Brazilian police scoured dense Amazon jungle on Sunday for the suspected killers of a 74-year-old US nun who was gunned down after defending peasant farmers from illegal loggers and ranchers.

Two gunmen shot dead US Catholic missionary Dorothy Stang at a landless peasant settlement on Saturday, 50 km from the town of Anapu in Para state, northern Brazil.

Stang, a native of Dayton, Ohio, had spent over three decades fighting for the rights of small farmers in Amazon land conflicts. She faced constant death threats for her work.

Police have identified the gunmen and also suspects for people who hired them and ordered the killing, Brazil's Human Rights Secretary Nilmario Miranda told said by phone from the Anapu region.

A rancher who threatened to expel small farmers from land near at settlement is suspected of masterminding the assassination, he said.

"Everything indicates this, the gunmens' links, the history of (killing) contracts around here. It's just a legal question, you can't give out a name without definitive proof against him," said Miranda.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula has dispatched ministers and federal police teams to investigate the killing, which has highlighted tensions between small farmers, loggers and big landowners as they lay claim to the rain forest. *Reuters*

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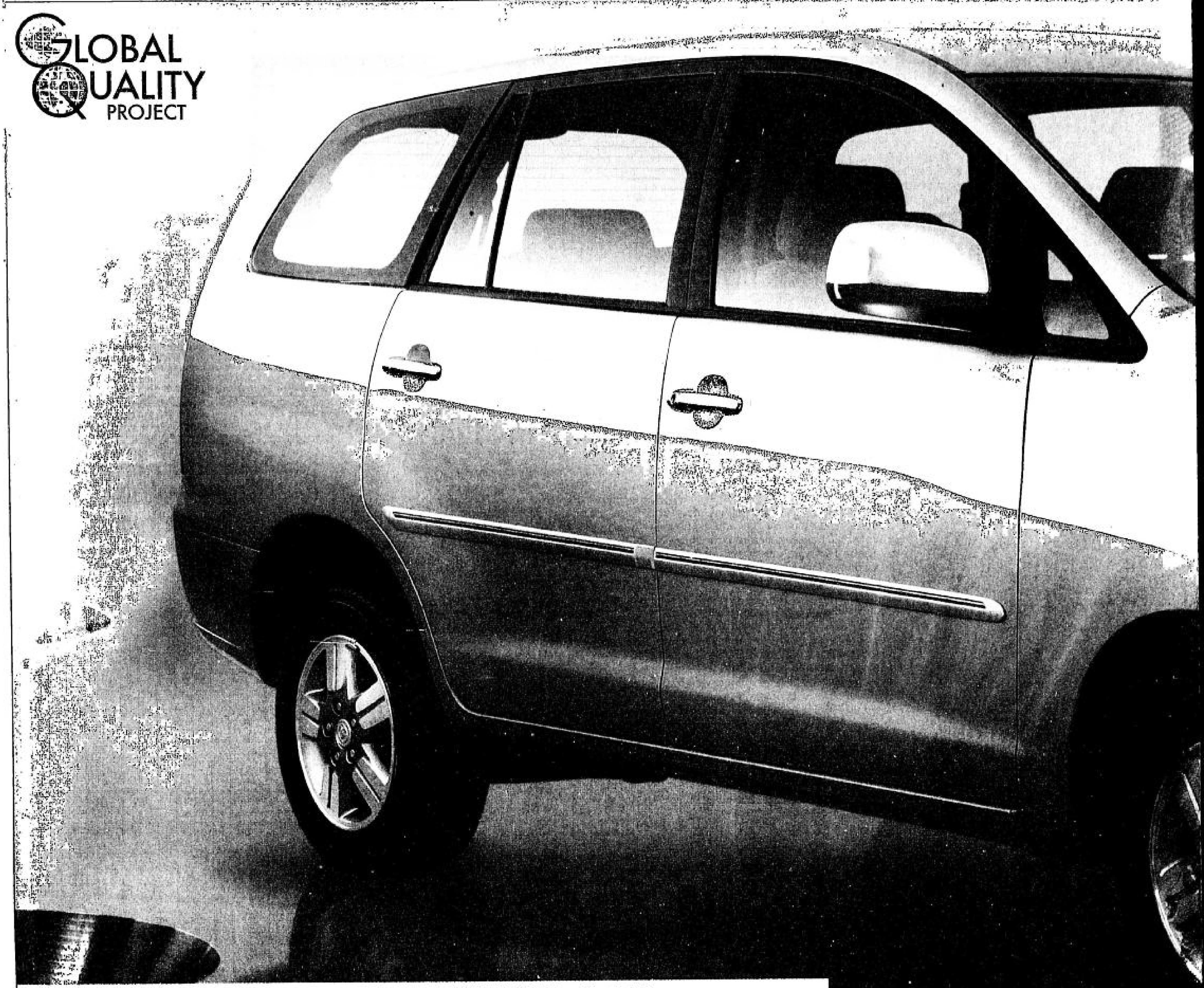

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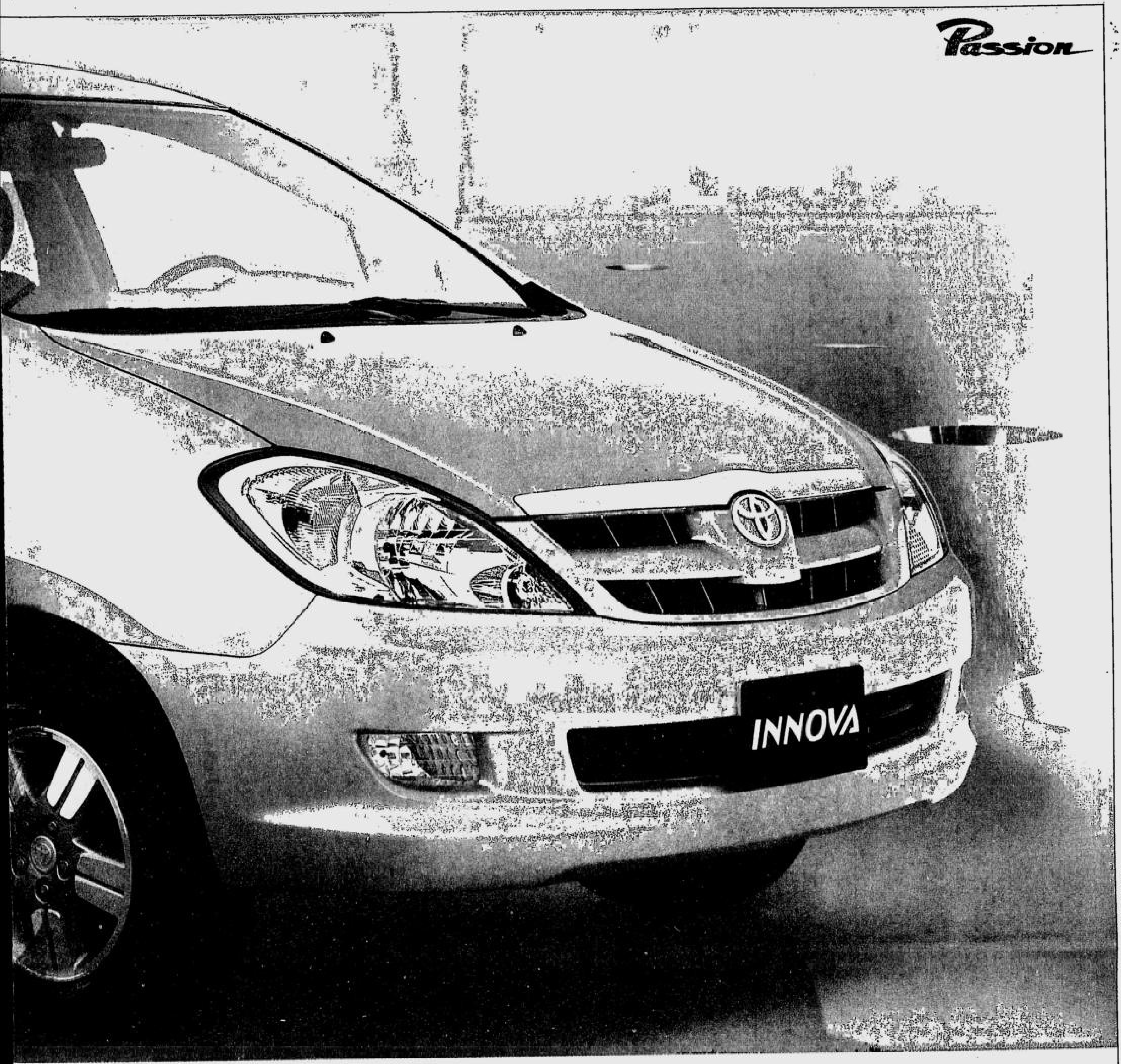

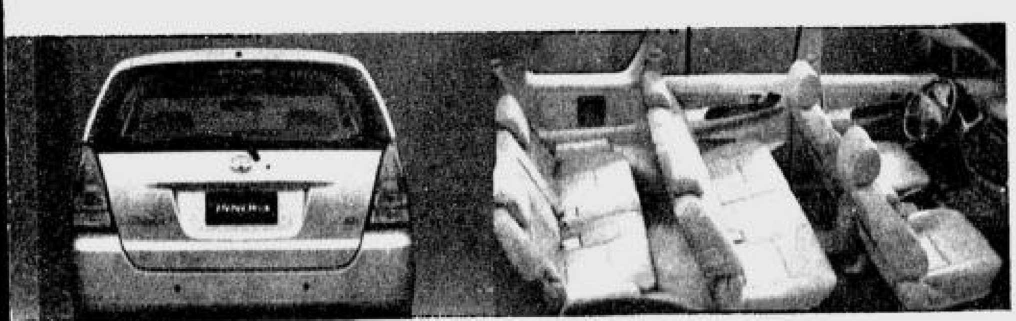

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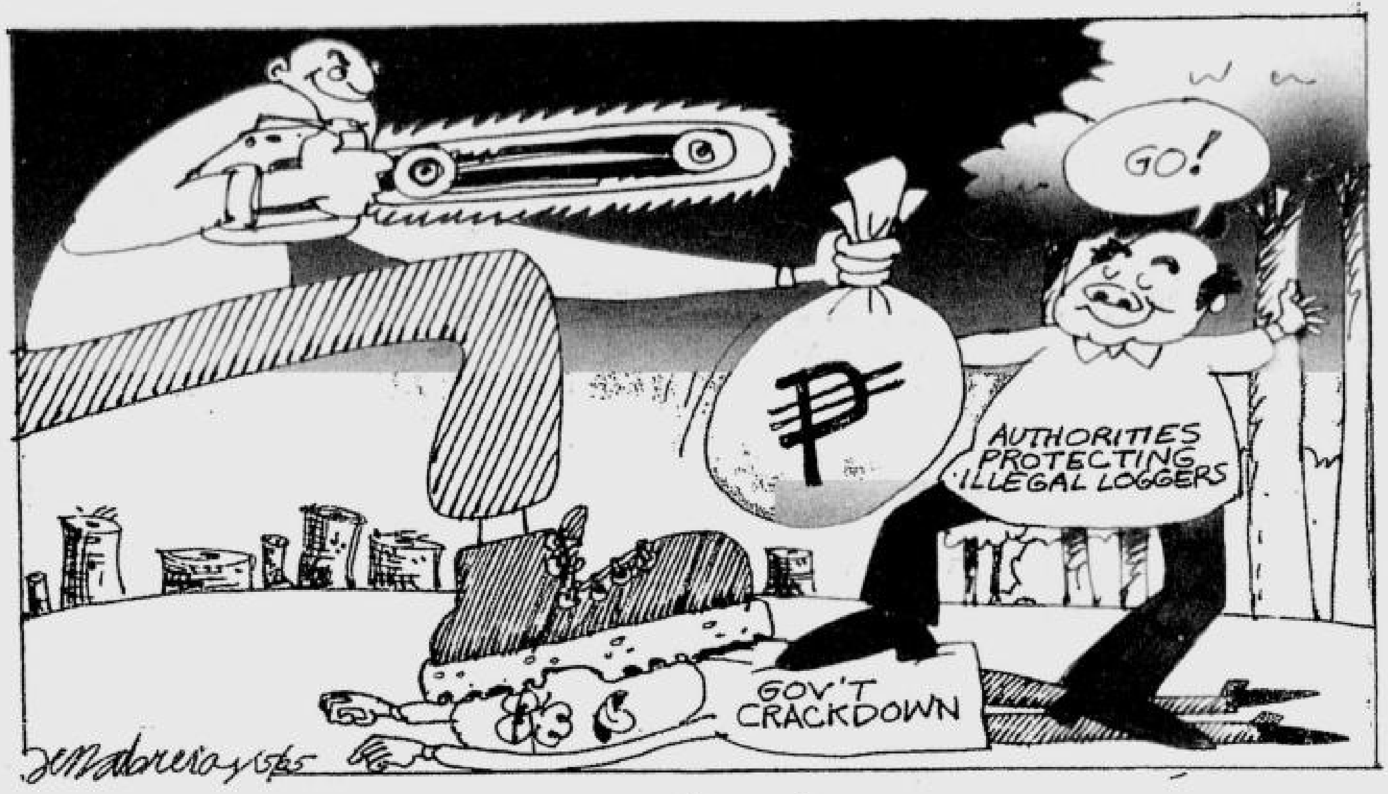

A global step

EDITORIAL

SOME people have the impression that the World Economic Forum is just one huge talkfest where participants discuss problems and issues to death. This year's annual meeting, held last Jan. 26-30 at Davos, Switzerland, should correct this impression; it took some concrete measures that would help relieve some of the most pressing economic, social and political problems of the world.

Poverty was the No. 1 issue on the agenda of the Forum this year. To help meet this problem, world leaders at the Forum urged the cancellation of the debts of the poorest nations. The initiative taken at the annual meeting appears to be having results. At a meeting of the G-7 held several days after the Forum, the world's richest countries agreed for the first time to pursue a 100-percent write-off of the $70 billion owed by the poorest nations to big institutions like the World Bank.

The Forum urged the implementation of a proposed international financing facility that would deliver aid to the poorest countries at a more rapid and predictable rate.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard said the single biggest contribution the developed world could make to alleviate poverty was to break down trade barriers. He said that "trade access is worth far more to underdeveloped countries than development assistance." To promote equitable globalization (which was the No. 2 issue on the agenda) and make trade fairer, the participants urged negotiators to complete the Doha Agenda of trade talks to enshrine the principles of reciprocity, free trade and the liberalization of trade in services.

Climate change was the No. 3 item on the agenda. Forum participants made recommendations on how to help halt the deterioration of the environment and prevent further changes in the global climate.

During the Forum's annual meeting, British Prime Minister Tony Blair hosted a roundtable with senior executives of leading businesses from around the world to discuss climate change and the challenges it presents to the global business community. The Forum and Greenhouse Gas Register agreed with the Carbon Disclosure Project, a collaboration of more than 100 investors with more than $17 trillion in assets, to increase the engagement of the corporate and investment community in tackling the problem of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon risk.

On education, the No. 4 item on the Forum's agenda, the participants urged that education be made available to all girls and women to eliminate gender disparities and to add the potential that women bring to the world's work force. They agreed that aid should be given to the developing world in a way that recognizes and preserves the dignity of the people.

The Middle East was the No. 5 item on the Forum's agenda. During the annual meeting, Israeli and Palestinian officials agreed that a window of opportunity to end the long-standing conflict was possible. They noted that the meeting was the first in a long time for both sides to come together in a public venue. Israeli Vice Premier Ehud Olmert said that "the most important thing is to set the right priorities to take the process forward."

Yasser Abbed Rabbo of the Palestinian Authority said that with the recent election of President Mahmoud Abbas, there would be a new beginning for the peace process. And indeed, the ceasefire that was declared a few days after the Forum augurs well for the future of Israeli-Palestinian relations.

On aid to the developing nations, some leaders had expressed concerns that it might just go into private pockets unless something was done about the problem of corruption. The private sector took the initiative on this, and 62 corporate leaders at the Forum signed a commitment on a zero-tolerance policy on bribery and corruption. The Partnering against Corruption Initiative, in collaboration with Transparency International, facilitated agreement by companies in three industry sectors on the Partnering against Corruption Principles for Countering Bribery.

The president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development agreed to explore the inclusion of anti-bribery language as part of the bidding process for infrastructure projects along the lines of an earlier agreement between PACI and the World Bank in 2004.

As measures go, the recommendations made and the initiatives taken at the World Economic Forum may be described by some as just nibbling at huge chunks of problems that have plagued the world for decades, if not centuries. But at least something concrete is being done. Political, economic and social leaders demonstrated at Davos that something concrete could be done about the world's most urgent problems if only they themselves would have the determination and political will to solve them.

Hoofing it

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

EVEN before they graduate, almost half (47 percent) of Filipino students already plan to migrate. And within overseas workers' families, the proportion ratchets up to six out of every 10 kids.

So, how long can a million of our workers yearly hoof it to foreign lands without crippling the country?

That question arises in "Hearts Apart"—a hard-nosed analysis of parents seeking jobs abroad, as seen in "the eyes of Filipino children" left behind.

"The millions of Filipinos working overseas make a difference...between basic survival and a better life for their families back home." BBC correspondent Sarah Toms observed. "But there's a cost to be paid, too, by the children they leave behind."

What's the cost?—asks the study sponsored by the Catholic bishops' commission for Pastoral Care of Migrants, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Scalabrini Migration Center.

Researchers—from University of the Philippines (Cebu), Colegio de San Agustin in Bacolod and Ateneo de Davao—interviewed 1,443 children in 130 schools in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Cebu, Negros Occidental and Davao del Sur.

Concern over migration is reflected in the growing body of research. Socorro Gultiano of San Carlos University's Office of Population Studies' and her team are analyzing domestic migration.

The numbers, however, shove overseas migration to the forefront. One out of every 10 Filipinos today lives or works abroad. About a fourth are "illegals." They remit about $8 billion through banks. But much is funneled in via unofficial networks."

Studies range from Ateneo's "Filipino Children Under Stress" to Bangkok's Asian Research Center's "Filipino Women Migrants: Home But Not For Good," and to "Seasonal Orphans" by Victoria Paz Cruz.

Immigration curbs, war or government haven't staunched the hemorrhage. In 2003 alone, 867,969 Filipinos left for over 100 destinations in "those far away places with strange-sounding names." Filipinos operate dialysis machines in Khazakstan, sail ships in the Caribbean or work as domestics in Hong Kong.

Starting in the 1980s, more women left. "We cannot work abroad," says Pete, whose wife from Laguna is a domestic worker. "They're the ones who can find jobs."

Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines are the Asian countries where women constitute the majority of migrants. "The trend has become irreversible."

But there's "more beneath and beyond the statistics and the dollars," notes Scalabrini Center's Dr. Maruja M.B. Asis. Filipinos call mothers *ilaw ng tahanan* or "light of the home." The departure of mothers has "put the well-being of the family on the line."

If they had a say, 49 out of every 100 kids would prefer that the father migrate, the survey found. "My mom can be both father and mother," says Don, 19, from La Union. "Sometimes, she climbs the roof. But my father can't cook."

Cash gives migrants' children an edge: home ownership, durable goods, quality schools, better health care, etc. More children of overseas Filipino workers enroll in private schools with higher educational standards. They "fare slightly better" than those of non-migrants in several indices of academic performance: from general weighted average to honor rolls.

"With a lifetime ahead, how did the children view their future?" Rosy. Nine out of 10 said so. But many of them plan out careers shaped by what's marketable abroad. More than half (52 percent) want to become doctors, nurses, etc. That's followed by engineers (7 percent)—and entertainers.

"There's no possibility to move up here," says Ron, 19, from Cagayan de Oro. "I'll have a future abroad." From the Ilocos, Ric, also 19, says: "Professionals in the Philippines go to other countries, and then the other countries progress. But where they come from, there's no progress." But there's ambivalence too. "I prefer it here. The values are good," says La Union's Migs, 19. "If nothing happens here, I'll try international." But Risa, 17, of Manila admits: "It's like a conflict. The family you leave behind—you don't know what will happen to them."

Public perceptions swirl around stories of philandering husbands or wayward children. The study's findings, however, present a less monolithic picture.

"Departure of one or two parents does leave an emotional mark," especially when it is the mother who is away. But extended families offer support. In many other well-being indicators, the children do as well. Where the family is stable, "it can withstand the separation imposed by migration."

The study does not discount the psychological stress. "I pity my mother and fear for her safety," says Hafiz, 19, from Cotabato. "I was still young then, about six. I cried a lot. It seemed hard to adjust," says Ric. "My youngest sibling always pines for her. This is for our own good," adds Farid, 20.

But hearts inch apart when the absence of a parent is prolonged. "My daddy is really kind...But it feels there's a stranger in the house," 19-year-old Isa from Bulacan says. Some regret for experiences they could have shared as a family.

To maintain ties, families spend for costly communication. "Cell phone families" reassure children their families remain intact. "The phone cards he consumed could be our food budget," explained Sonia, a Manila seafarer's wife. "But if you take it away—nothing."

"The children's responses indicate that overseas migration will continue," the report notes. Hearts apart have "implications for the country as a whole."

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Six

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(*Concluded*)

"THE GOD of Small Things" is one of those things that seem to be going nowhere until you reach the end when everything makes perfect sense. It shifts back and forth in time, uncoils its details like a snake, talks among many things—about the ancientness and modernness of India, and the continuities and breaks between the generations. Everything seems to revolve around the drowning of an English girl who has come to visit a family in Kerala. But like the many manifestations of Shiva, it isn't quite all.

What it is in the end is—a love story. One that defies more than the murderous enmity between feuding families, one that defies more than even death itself: One that defies the most ancient of India's taboos, which is for an upper class person, particularly a woman, bedding down with an Untouchable man. And its earth-shaking consequences, which reveal the best and worst of India, the best and worst in human beings.

What raises "The God of Small Things" heads and shoulders above most things you've read is its language. It completely reinvents it. Here is writing where you truly cannot separate form and substance. The form is the substance, the language is the story. This is storytelling that grows in your brain while it tugs at your heart. I leave the reader to discover this magical experience all by herself.

Ha Jin's "Waiting" is a love story with a twist: It turns out to be the one thing St. Teresa de Avila warned against, which is an answered prayer. An answered prayer is often worse than unanswered one. Lin, a doctor in Mao's China, meets a young volunteer, Manna, and slowly—this is China, nothing happens fast, except executions—falls in love with her. There is only one problem: He is married. His marriage, of course, was arranged, but no matter, it is binding and carries with it all sorts of legal sanctions and political repercussions. So Lin waits, for what seems like forever. His application for divorce depends on his wife's consent, and his wife doesn't particularly care to give it. Not out of spite but out of not knowing where to go to afterward. Lin himself feels guilty: his wife took care of his ailing parents when he wasn't around, which was nearly all the time.

It's in the details you'll find the story, in the curious mating, or courtship, rituals invented by China and Mao. Love in the time of cholera finds its counterpart in love in the time of reconstruction. The twist happens toward the end: Lin does get his girl after a couple of decades or so, and discovers that love isn't all it's cranked up to be. Or that a man's reach should always truly exceed his grasp because what's grasped tends to cease to be heaven. Or "happily ever after" is a contradiction in terms. I'll leave things dangling there, or leave the reader's curiosity to push him to find out what happens.

A strange, luminous and dazzling piece of work is Haruki Murakami's "The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle." I wouldn't be surprised if Murakami is soon short-listed among the Nobel nominees, he's a genius. "Wind-Up" is surreal without the verbal extravagance of the Latin American magic realists, without the ponderous detail of the Russian and American realists; philosophical without the abstract transcendentalism of the Asian mystics. The sensibility is at once uniquely Japanese and eerily universal (the collective unconscious?). The word that leaps to mind is "weird," but a kind of weirdness that isn't unpleasant, not unlike some Japanese anime. It's like looking at a common object and finding it the strangest thing in the world, recognizable and unfamiliar, the same thing but different at the same time.

A young man, Toru Okada, starts out by looking for a lost cat, he ends up by looking for his lost wife. Or a wife that left him because she fell for another man, or did she? Nothing is as it seems. His quest brings him to enter many worlds and see strange-familiar things, such as the postwar history of Japan and the eternal history of his soul. It's the kind of book that makes for easy and hard reading at the same time. You fly through it only to realize you haven't gone very far. Does he find his wife in the end? Well, it's part of the magic of the book that's not so easy to answer.

The last is one that has raised a furor over the last decades because of its outrageous theme. That is Vladimir Nabokov's "Lolita," a novel that has been dismissed as a glorification of pedophilia and hailed (as one critic puts it) as the only true love story of the 20th century. It's the story of a middle-aged man who falls in love with a pubescent girl, or since many will object to the word "love," becomes obsessed with her. It is a testament to Nabokov's genius at least, that he is able to give a convincing argument for love. The book has been interpreted in every possible way, from satire to indulgence, and there's probably a grain of truth to much of it. Its literary stature though is indisputable and well-earned. It's in the language, too, where you find the story, as tour de force as you can get, and from a Russian émigré writing in English yet. You certainly will not look at the world, or at human relationships, the same way again. You'll marvel at the vastness or mysteriousness of the human mind, or heart.

You can't get laid this Valentine, lay your head down with these. Of course, truth being stranger than fiction—something you get to glimpse as you grow older—you'll also find the best love stories right in front of you, in real life. I just spotted one recently in an item we had on our front page, in the union between two male comrades in the communist movement. Defiant love in the trenches: Now there's something waiting to be told.

But that's quite another story.

Bohol's incredible ferment

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

VALENTINE greetings flew all over the place yesterday via text, fattening the hearts principally of the big telecommunications companies, such as Smart and Globe, which pay minuscule taxes because of Congress' resistance to taxing windfall profits. Of the myriad text messages that came my way, one of the best was this: "God's crazy about you. He sends you a sunrise every day and flowers all year round. He has the universe but He prefers to live in your heart. Happy Valentine."

* * *

There are reports that Lt. Col. Dennis Villanueva, battalion commander in Sulu, died of loss of blood because he was not evacuated to the Southern Command Hospital in Zamboanga City. The AFP high command denies that the evacuation was delayed, but the death of combat personnel from loss of blood is not an uncommon occurrence in the field. We, at the Alay sa Kawal Foundation, have long noted this sad reality. Due to lack of helicopters and planes, in many cases, it really takes a long while before wounded soldiers are evacuated to decent hospitals. This is where the strict policing of the bidding and implementation of AFP supplies contract can come in—what's saved from graft and corruption could buy badly needed choppers.

* * *

Given the reality of a shortage in transportation facilities in the field, one solution that begs to be adopted is to equip the clinics in the various military camps, especially in critical areas, with emergency plasma and other life-saving necessities. This should include competent medical personnel. For instance, because of the criticality of Sulu, the marine camp in Jolo ought to have a small but competent field hospital for emergencies. A practical way to solve the need for blood in the field is to make the enlisted personnel serve as some kind of blood bank for wounded comrades. With regard to competent medics in the field, the Alay sa Kawal Foundation, headed by Ambassador Edgardo Espiritu and lawyer Ramon Pedrosa, saw this critical need. One of its programs, headed by trustee Dr. Roberta Carreon-Romero, is to shoulder the entire cost of medical schooling of doctors who will be under contract to join and serve the AFP for a given number of years. No effort ought to be too big to help save the lives of our combat soldiers.

* * *

Death came last Sunday to Sr. Lucia, one of the three young children to whom the Virgin Mary appeared in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917. Sr. Lucia's two companions, Jacinta and Francesco, died very young and they are interred near the high altar at the basilica that was built at the apparition site. The tombs of the two young children, who have been declared blessed, are marked by simple black marble slabs; a third unmarked slab is reserved for Sr. Lucia who, in her over nine decades of existence, had been a source of inspirational wisdom and spiritual light for the world.

* * *

INQUIRER columnist Augusto Villalon has once again raised the clarion call against the plan of the Department of Public Works and Highways to destroy some very old houses in historic Baclayon, Bohol, to give way to highways supposedly in the name of progress. The owners have banded together to protest the DPWH's insane and unpatriotic move, and I'd like to add my voice to their protest. Baclayon is one of the few places in the country where the old *bahay na bato* still exists, as well as one of the oldest churches in the country. These should be preserved, enhanced and protected, not destroyed.

* * *

Speaking of Bohol, Cecile Alvarez and I recently featured in our radio program Betty Veloso Garcia, chairperson of "Tigum Bol-Anon sa Tibuok Kalibutan (TBTK)," and artist Gardy Labad, a prime mover in Bohol. TBTK, is a movement of local and foreign-based Boholanos, which aims to bring back their compatriots to their native province every three years for a week-long immersion in all kinds of festivities. Betty, sister-in-law of Rep. Edgar Chatto, lives with her family in New Jersey but works every other evening as night nurse in Manhattan in New York City. Despite her work, she finds time to campaign among the 35 active organizations of Boholanos in the US and Canada for TBTK 2006. This is the kind of Pinoy leadership we see over and over again.

* * *

TBTK was started in 1999 by the umbrella organization of Boholanos in those countries, upon the invitation of then Gov. Rene Relampagos, as an exchange program for balikbayan youths, so they could find their roots in Bohol. TBTK went into its second year in 2003 with enormous success. Encouraged by this, the third TBTK is being planned out for July 22-30, 2006, to coincide with the annual Sandugo Festival and Bohol Day festivities. By now, aside from the Chocolate Hills and Baclayon Church, Bohol boasts of such phenomenon as the Loboc Choir (which has been winning plaudits abroad as our local version of the Vienna Boys' Choir), and its 16 or so well-preserved churches, complete with frescoes.

* * *

Two years or so ago, I joined Cecile at the Sandugo Festival in Tagbilaran, under the auspices of the indefatigable Gardy Labad, and felt greatly enriched by the experience. One of the highlights was a classical guitar concert in Loboc Church featuring Pinoy New York-based guitarist Michael Dadap and songs by the Bonifacio Choir conducted by his brother, Jerry Dadap. Many foreign-based Pinoys have tried to ape the festivities in Bohol, but they never came close to it. I myself have wondered about the incredible ferment in Bohol. Doubtless one factor is the fervent dedication of its people, including those who have lived away from it for decades, but who never forgot its soul. Among them are Betty Veloso-Garcia and my good friend, New York-based Boy Echavez.

Sex and romance

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THOUSANDS of couples kissed at the stroke of midnight last Saturday, ushering in Valentine's Day in this country of hopeless romantics. Though the mass kissing exercise was held in cities around the country, the epicenter of "Lovapalooza 2," a marketing gimmick for a toothpaste brand, was in one of the most romantic spots in this archipelago, long celebrated in song, poetry, tourist brochures and lovers' memories. This was the Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard, where even "Sputnik" streetlights and tacky street décor cannot detract from the beauty of the incomparable sunset in Manila Bay.

Leading the lip-locking display along the Baywalk was Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and his wife—which in itself is ironic because, while the mayor seems all gung-ho for romance, he doesn't seem all that concerned about the consequences of what often—or some would say, naturally—follows a night of basking in Cupid's glow.

If any of the Manila residents who planned to take part in "Lovapalooza 2" sought some form of protection in case they got "carried away" by all that "face sucking," they would have been hard put to find any form of contraception in any of the city's health centers. This is because it is the policy—though there are no documents stating so—of the city government not to allow any of its health centers to distribute or even provide information on any method of family planning, except the so-called "natural" family planning. So at best, the only service the amorous couples would have received from the health centers—centers funded by their taxes, mind you—would have been advice on how to determine the woman's "safe" period and avoid pregnancy on these days. Useful information, admittedly, but of little practical use to a couple facing or planning a night of amour.

* * *

ROMANCE and sex, sex and romance, the two are intimately linked and, some would say, one naturally follows the other.

But while we wrap ourselves in romance and feed its embers with songs, *kilig* movies, paperback novels, soap operas and kissing en masse, we choose to ignore the possibility that all that falling in love could lead to falling in lust. And often, in choosing to ignore sex as a normal and even desirable outcome of romance, we also end up denying our young people the information and services they need to make the right and safe decisions for themselves regarding their sexuality and its expression.

On the other hand, there is also a tendency to talk of, or search for, sex for its own sake, divorced from not just romance but from human relationships. In the end, only when the sex act becomes but the physical expression of a deeper emotional bond and the fruit of true compatibility does it become truly meaningful and transcendental.

As our papers reported yesterday, opinion polls show that less than half of Filipino men and women describe their "love lives" as satisfying. We have no way of knowing just how this "satisfaction" is measured. But I would guess the forced or unreal separation between sex and romance is a big factor in this general feeling of dissatisfaction.

* * *

MEANWHILE, the national government, through the Department of Health, is launching the "Ligtas Buntis" program, a program for safe and intended motherhood (*"ligtas na pagbubuntis at ligtas sa pagka-buntis"*) that includes a "door-to-door" information campaign that would have health workers and volunteers visiting families to provide them the needed information on planning one's family.

This seems commendable on the surface save for the fact that the communication plan prepared for the campaign uses the tag-line "Family Planning: *Natural...Dahil Mahal Kita*."

Background materials say the information campaign is anchored on convincing men—identified as one of the more resistant sectors to family planning—that the proper expression of their love for their wives is to protect them from unwanted pregnancy.

But the use of the word "natural" is deceptive and confusing. Health authorities may say it only means that family planning is a "natural" consequence of one's love for one's family. But it strikes many as a not-so-subtle plug for natural family planning, which the Department of Health is promoting aggressively.

Both President Macapagal-Arroyo and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit claim that the national government policy is to promote and provide all methods of family planning that are safe, effective and legal. But most of the new funding for family planning has gone mainly to training health workers on counseling couples on natural family planning, while the national government has remained adamant in its position not to allocate any new money for the purchase of contraceptives. Local government units are now responsible for this, officials say. But what of local governments like the City of Manila?

* * *

WHILE there's nothing wrong in pushing NFP, the push shouldn't be done entirely at the expense of the other methods of family planning.

But couples who have undergone counseling, as well as other health workers who've attended training sessions, attest that DOH-funded trainers promote NFP by bashing the other modern methods. They highlight the "risks" and side effects of the pill, IUD, injectables, the permanent methods, and even the condom, while denigrating their effectiveness in preventing pregnancy. One trainer even told the audience that women who choose to have an IUD inserted are "stupid."

Hypocrisy is all around us, it seems. Found not just among local officials who claim to be all for romance but don't care to protect their constituents from its consequences, but also in a national government playing the game of double-speak.

Of the island of Mindanao

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

ACCORDING to Capt. Thomas Forrest of the East India Company, nothing much was known about the history of Mindanao prior to the 15th century, before the Arabs set foot on the island. He based his narrative on records that, he claimed, came from Fakymolano, older brother of Sultan Paharadine, the father of young Rajah Kybad Zachariel. It was written in the Maguindanao language and Arabic characters. Fakymolano is said to have dictated it in Malay, then the lingua franca of the traders of that era (remember the datus in Butuan and Enrique de Malacca?).

Before the arrival of Seris Alli, the first Moslem prince of the island, some form of monarchy or privileged class was already in existence. Based in the towns of Maguindanao, Selangan, Catibtuan and Semayanan, the members of the class assumed the right to claim whatever land that they wanted for themselves from the banks of the river Dano. Those from the towns of Malampyan and Lusuden were said to be the first to join Seris; those from the first four mentioned towns soon followed.

Seris married a daughter of the king of this privileged class and on this marriage established his right to the crown. Their son was Mohamet Kabantuan who sired Makallan, the father of Bankaio. Bankaio had two sons: Buissan, surnamed Capt Laut, who succeeded him, and Salicola.

About the time that Kabantuan reigned, a person named Budiman was Pangaran of Sulu (a title inferior to sultan or rajah and used in Sumatra as well). He was succeeded by his grandson, whose name was Bonsoo (Bunso?). He was related to the family that ruled Borneo; the family is said to have come from Mecca and its head was the brother of Seris Alli.

Bunso had two children, a daughter, Potely (meaning princess or lawful daughter by his official wife), and a son, Bakliol, by a concubine. Bakliol overthrew his sister, declared his independence from Maguindanao and assumed the title of sultan although his ancestors had only been *pangarans*.

Salicola married Bakliol's sister, Potely, and they had a daughter named Panianamby, who married Kudarat, son of Buissan, her first cousin. They had two sons, Dolidy and Tidoly. The latter succeeded his father and had two sons, Abdaraman and Kuddy.

Kuddy, the uncle of Mossat, son of Abdaraman, usurped his throne and invited the Suluanons to side with him against the lawful heir. The Suluanons however had smaller and faster vessels than the Maguindanaos. They sailed into the Semony River and, finding Kuddy there with only a small force, they killed him, raided his camp and, carrying off some pieces of cloth, declared scornfully, "Surely you won't grudge these to cover the body of your dead king?"

Mossat had two sons Fakymolano and Paharadine, the sultan. Fakymolano was obliged to leave Maguindanao and retire to the banks of the Tamantakka. After many years of war, Molenu fled to Boayn and Fakymolano took possession of all the lands in Maguindanao. Peace reigned for about 30 years. Molenu died a natural death, leaving behind two sons, Topang and Uku, and a daughter, Myong. Fakymolano gave up the sultanate in favor of his brother Paharadine on condition that his son Kybad Zachariel succeed him.

Paharadine married Myong, his sister. Topang inherited large possessions from his father, rivaling those of the Rajah Mura who fortified himself at Cota Intang within musket range from the sultan's palace and within cannon range from Topang's fort. He was now closely related to the Suluanons after his marriage with Galaludine, daughter of Bantillan, once sultan of Sulu.

Paharadine had no children by his legal consort Myong, but he had a son by a concubine, Chartow. Whether Myong favored Chartow or Topang is not known but she had strong influence over the sultan and was rumored to be the cause of the rift between the sultan and Rajah Mura.

When Forrest sailed into the river Pelangy in May 1775, he was met by a boat with Datu Enty, a son of Rajah Mura, on board. The *datu* invited the captain to go to Cota Intang first before calling on the sultan. Forrest replied that he could not decide where to go until the rajah arrived. That night, Datu Enty and one of his attendants slept on board the galley and were fed tea and sago bread.

The next morning the boat was within sight of Selangan where Forrest saw a white banner bordered with checkers of blue, yellow and red and hoisted on a flag staff in a wooden fort, situated in the fork where the river Melampy broke off to the right from the Pelangy. Datu Enty told him that it was his father's fort, and reiterated his invitation for Forrest to first go to Cota Intang before seeing the sultan.

At this point a man, whom Forrest had known in Alambangan as Noquedah, came on board bringing word from the sultan that Balambanga had been taken by the Sulus. He told Forrest that he better stop by the sultan's fort. As they sailed past the sultan's fort, Forrest anchored and saluted with five guns which salute was returned. He then proceeded to Cota Intang where he was greeted by Datu Bukkalyan, brother-in-law of Rajah Mura. In the fort, he found the rajah and his father, Fakymolano, seated on European chairs.

The rajah was a man of "good stature" with piercing eyes and an aquiline nose. Fakymolano was short, outgoing and had a smiling countenance.

Forrest informed them that he had a letter and a present from Balambangan for the sultan, which he proposed to deliver that day. The Rajah offered his brother-in-law as a guide. They met the sultan who spoke good Malay but chose to converse through the interpreter Noquedah.

* * *

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Lolo wasn't perfect

YOUNG BLOOD

Marifel Murphy

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHEN I was younger, I wrote this poem:

"Will a soul shed a tear when I die?
Will everything about me be forgotten?
I'm afraid to die old."

It was a bit morbid, as young girls' poems often are, and soon I forgot about it. Then my Lolo died at the age of 86. I thought, now I'll see what it is to die old and unmourned. There will surely be few to mourn him, because he wasn't perfect. He gave us so many problems, especially Lola. He wasn't really a nice man.

We had a cold relationship, so when I heard the news about his death, I experienced no shock or remorse. I'm sorry to say this now, but Lolo was the person I cared the least about. As a small girl I went out of my way to upset him. I'd pick fights. We were an immature teenager and an immature man arguing over the smallest things, like children fighting over lollipops. On the way home from the office, it hit me: We never got along well because we were the same type: self-centered and immature brats.

Before Lolo died, he was in a coma for almost four years, so our fights really happened a long time ago. I never understood him and I didn't want to understand. To me, he was the cause of all the bad luck in my life. But up to now I still have to figure out why I thought that.

I looked at his pale body when I got home and I realized I missed him. I looked at my Mom and Lola, and told myself there must have been something good in him because they were crying over his death. Seeing Lola's flood of tears, I knew that he was loved for a reason. There was more to love in him than I suspected. Maybe there is more in me to love, too, I thought.

Hundreds of people came to his wake, and I was surprised. Eight priests officiated at his funeral Mass. I knew many of the people and priests were there to condole with other members of our family. But what difference did that make?

I was sure there would be an equal number of mourners around when I died someday. Maybe I wasn't better than him, but I wasn't worse. We are loved despite our weaknesses.

My father once told me that when he was still working in Tondo in the early 1970s, a big fire struck Barrio Magsaysay. He hurried there with his friends to see what they could do. They met hundreds of poor families fleeing the fire, carrying all their valuables, clothes, utensils, beddings. They helped the old people who were running with their dogs and their grandchildren.

In the crowd of refugees were men and women carrying their handicapped children, the physically malformed and the retarded. These were the children they had been hiding in their hovels because their relatives were ashamed of them. You could have visit Barrio Magsaysay a hundred times and you would never have seen them, but the parents loved these children, my father told me. They were loved, not because of what they did or said, but because they were their children. Love is deeper than liking someone who is smart or attractive.

I remembered the story at the wake. We are loved, even though we can't understand why we are loved. We should be grateful for this. And I am.

Now I'm not afraid that I would die old and alone.

Marifel Murphy, 24, works in New York City.

Life's paradox

Dianavie Martha Gannaban

THE BEST advice I have ever received is to treat life as a terminal illness.

Whenever I want to accomplish something difficult, within a certain deadline, people always tell me I'm still young, I still have a lot going for me. While I believe there's some truth to that, I'm also well aware that life is short. Too short, in fact, for me not to worry about missing deadlines. About not being able to show my loved ones how much I care for them. About not seeing the day my youngest brother graduates. About getting burned to death inside our home. About suffering a fatal stroke days short of Christmas. About being forgotten. About not being able to make a mark in this world. About not witnessing how a leaf falls no matter how stubbornly it clings to the branch.

The paradox is that while I'm slowing down to take note of life's minutest details, I'm also in a hurry to absorb them all. There's barely any time left, I cannot be around forever, which relieves and saddens me at the same time.

Perhaps, this is the reason why I love taking pictures and recording my personal history with a collection of pens and a couple of old, trusty cameras.

I've majored in Literature and ventured into Photojournalism. Both reading and writing are for me an adventure into creative thought and battle, an adventure matching life itself. In photography, I capture the special moments and images of once-in-a-lifetime events, "freezing them in time" in all their glory. I read, write and take pictures to have a deeper understanding of the infiniteness of reality.

And I share the fruits of my labor—to tell a story, to keep in memory what tends to be forgotten. For in telling my version of reality I see the meaning of things more clearly. It brings forth significant revelations. It affirms my humanity, it takes me to greater dimensions of optimism, even as it makes me appreciate—and gives me as much joy looking at—others' versions of reality.

In the process, I realize how life is so full of possibilities and impossibilities. I cannot do everything I want. I live in a master plan drawn out of and limited by a list of restricting realities. Sometimes, it proves very difficult to prepare and await, anticipate and counter what must come. But that's what we've been doing all our lifetime: remaining committed and hopeful in the face of uncertainty. The clock ticks, the day closes, the month passes, the year comes to an end. What matters is participating in an enriching journey and not regretting anything that comes along the way.

I treat life as a terminal illness, robbing me of precious time with the people and things I've grown to love in this world, and I begin to treasure it.

Dianavie Martha Gannaban, 21, took up AB Literature in English at the Ateneo de Manila University and graduated last March 2004. She is currently enrolled at the New York Institute of Photography as a distance learning student.

Justice should not be borne alone by those who seek it

IN my capacity as IBP governor of Eastern Mindanao and national executive vice president, I join Western Mindanao IBP governor Carlos L. Valdez Jr. in opposing the withdrawal of the petition questioning the constitutionality of RA 9227. IBP governor Dante G. Ilaya of Central Luzon was absent during the voting, but he has written IBP president Jose Anselmo Cadiz, strongly protesting the withdrawal of the petition.

We oppose the withdrawal for the following reasons:

1. The Integrated Bar of the Philippines unanimously voted for the filing of the petition. All nine governors and the IBP president filed the verified petition on Sept. 21, 2004.

2. The IBP solidly supports the need to increase the salaries of judges who are underpaid. But this should be done through budgetary appropriations, not by penalizing litigants to pay higher court filing fees—100 to 1,000 percent more.

3. The administration of justice is a national concern and should not be shouldered alone by those aggrieved or by those who seek justice.

4. The IBP national officers led a rally in Congress protesting RA 9227, with hundreds of lawyers vigorously protesting the unfairness and unconstitutionality of RA 9227.

5. The petition was filed to protect the greater interest of the public who will bear the brunt of these hiked filing fees.

It is unfortunate that, by a 6-2 vote last Jan. 13, the board of governors decided to withdraw the petition after the respondents, including the solicitor general, had filed their comments. So, why did the board withdraw the petition?

Many IBP chapters all over the land complained to the board about the unfairness and legality of RA 9227. They praised the board when the petition was filed with the Supreme Court.

The petition was withdrawn without consultations with IBP chapters many of whom prodded the IBP to file the petition. We are now receiving numerous resolutions from many more IBP chapters protesting the unjustified withdrawal of the petition and directing their officers to re-file the petition on behalf of the chapters.

IBP governors Valdez, Ilaya and myself, as individual petitioners, are not withdrawing the petition. We submit the interpretation of the constitutionality of RA 9227 to the Supreme Court.

—LEONARD DE VERA,
national executive vice president
and governor of Eastern Mindanao,
Integrated Bar of the Philippines,
15 Julia Vargas Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Cover-up for reckless decisions?

THE RECENT debates on the controversial tax measures seem to leave fundamental questions that neither the executive nor the legislative branch of government want answered. President Macapagal-Arroyo is asking the House of Representatives to increase taxes. Yet, the executive branch refuses to effectively exercise its power to raise and re-calibrate the tariff rates on imports. It has been shown that the general, unilateral and accelerated tariff reduction program implemented by the executive branch is one of the major causes of the decline in tax collection in the last 10 years. This was a deliberate act, carried out by the executive branch through several administrations. Why can't this be addressed first, before imposing new taxes?

Studies have shown that, in the last decade, about P1 trillion was lost in foregone revenues due to the tariff reductions. This led the executive branch to a series of massive borrowings, and now it needs new sources of revenues to service these debts. The World Trade Organization allows member-states to freely manage their tariff structure as long as they keep within the "bound" rates. Many of our products are unbound, and the bound items have ceilings as high as 40 percent. Yet we continue to suffer and self-destruct by bringing down our tariffs from an average of 20 percent in 1994 to 6 percent at present.

Congress should question, among others, the effectiveness of trade policies being implemented by the executive branch; and ask for the correction of what has been an obviously disastrous tariff reduction policy. Congress should also ask why borrowings were the only action resorted to when the dire effects of tariff reduction, which constricted the industrial tax base effectively, had been aired as early as 1998 when the impact of the Asian financial crises was getting worse, and the executive branch had all the leeway to adjust tariffs upward then—and even now.

Tax administration and tax collection performance are major responsibilities of the executive branch. Will Congress allow irresponsible executive decisions and practices to be covered up by the mere enactment of additional taxes?

—FELIPE DE VERA
fdevera2001@yahoo.com

VAT grossly insensitive

THE PROMOTION of Church People's Response (PCPR) demands that the government, instead of increasing the value added tax, change its budget priorities. All these years, the poor have been paying taxes, but the revenues generated go directly to the payment of illegitimate foreign debts. It is immoral and unjust that the bulk of the national budget, which comes from the taxpayers, is misused by the government to pay fraudulent foreign loans.

Instead of a VAT hike, we challenge Pres. Macapagal-Arroyo and the members of Congress to immediately stop the payment of these loans; and to review and repeal the automatic debt appropriations policy.

As long as this policy, a legacy of the Marcos dictatorship, remains in place, the Philippines will be in perpetual indebtedness, and the bulk of taxpayers' money will continue to go to foreign-debt servicing rather than to basic social services that are much-needed by the poor. It is immoral that the Arroyo government keeps on imposing more taxes on our already overburdened people just to pay for foreign debts.

The VAT hike will just increase the misery and outrage of the poor majority. GMA has been given time to prove her worth in fulfilling the promises she made—at Edsa, during the 2004 election campaign, in her Sonas, and in many of her public speeches. But all these years of her presidency have only been full of lies and betrayal. What is there for the Filipino people to further expect? What more hardships and heavy burdens await the poor under five more years of GMA? VAT is another blatant demonstration of GMA's betrayal of public interest and of her gross insensitivity to the sufferings of the poor.

We challenge the Senate to junk the VAT and all additional burdens against the poor. We hail the minority in Congress who voted against the approval of VAT. We condemn the majority who voted against the welfare of the poor.

—REV. FR. ALLAN JOSE ARCEBUCHE, OFM
national chair,
Promotion of Church People's Response
879 Edsa,
Quezon City 1101

FORMER President Estrada: crazy dreams

SAGISAG NG PANGULO NG PILIPINAS

PDI PHOTO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo: not in economics class

'Eraption' and self-glorification

I WOULD like to express my concern about the opposition's misbehavior and the administration's misdeeds.

Joseph Estrada was president for two and a half years, but he was not iron-fisted in the fight against government corruption. His use of the late Fernando Poe Jr. in insinuating a call for another "adventurism" is detrimental to our country's health. Erap and his gang should stop their crazy dreams! He should be tried in the Sandiganbayan. His extravagant stay in Hong Kong was not consistent with the pro-*masa* image he wants to project. Should he get himself back to Malacanang, it is certain that he will again be anti-*masa*, especially with his midnight Cabinet in tow, his pro-poor promises once again broken. His extravagantly luxurious lifestyle will trigger a bigger tsunami.

As for President Macapagal-Arroyo, she must be realistic. Her 10-point agenda is just a product of theoretical lessons she learned from her economics school.

Since her assumption to the Presidency in January 2001, there has been no progress in the country. The spiraling prices of basic commodities, the unabated corruption, the scandals involving the First Gentleman and Cabinet members, the high crime rate, and the tragic disasters befalling our country have been unrelenting in assaulting our stability and sense of security.

Yes, GMA is stronger than President Marcos. Yes, she is more determined than President Aquino. But her way of addressing the nation's problems is superficial and shallow. She's only good in publicity.

This is not the time to boast of yet unseen programs.The presidency is not like teaching in an economics class. Economic concepts are meant to be applied, not just memorized or made subject of speeches.

It is not only wars and natural disasters that kill and maim human beings by the hundreds or thousands. So does corruption in government.

I suggest that in order to solve our country's problems, the President--instead of pursuing her 10-point agenda--does the following:

1. Fire or re-assign three-fourths of Malacanang's undersecretaries, staff and minor functionaries.

2. Reduce the salaries of the heads of government-owned corporations to P20,000 a month.

3. Abolish the pork barrel system.

4. Re-allocate all the money that will be saved from the measures enumerated above to increase the salaries of ordinary government employees and thus discourage corruption.

5. Monitor and control the prices of goods thoroughly.

If GMA cannot revise her programs, then people power would be good for her. GMA won't be able to bring glory for the nation by keeping her expertise in economics just in the realm of theories or by indulging in self-glorification.

—JOHN PLATIL
University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City

Mustafa's dedicated teachers

AT THE FUNERAL Mass for my colleague and friend Bonifacia Marzan Matutina (Manila Science High School and University of the Philippines Integrated School), I met a Mr. Medina who was profuse in his praise of the deceased. Eight of his children, he proudly told the family of the deceased, had been in Ms Matutina's math classes at the UPIS. When he learned I was Ms Matutina's co-teacher at the MSHS, he also congratulated me profusely, saying in parting, "Long live the public school teacher!"

I was reminded of this upon reading Noralyn Mustafa's Feb. 7 column on her memories of her early schooling. It is inspiring and encouraging to know that even in a remote town of Sulu our youngsters were learning about Shakespeare, O. Henry, Omar Khayyam, how to make *polvoron*, how they came into being, etc. They even managed to produce the school paper. I, a 17-year veteran in advising school paper staff in a special school, recognize and salute.

We envied her air that smelled of wild flowers and acacia blossoms, for how many of our city mice know the smell of acacia blossoms over the smell of jeepney exhausts?

We agree with her: Just give us well-educated, well-trained and committed teachers and good, well-written text books. That is all.

But we add, eager to learn youngsters, too.

—EUFEMIA C. ESTRADA,
retired public school teacher

An idea whose time has come

I FIND De Quiros' column "What new dawn?" (PDI 1/19/05) interesting ang mind-boggling. He said: "But I will not join any initiative led by Erap or Ping Lacson or Edgar Angara to 'unite this country.' They will not bring a new dawn, they will bring a swift sunset."

For me, it's new "down." We have been downtrodden since the Aquino presidency because of the Philippine government's continuing subservience to US imperialism. The members of the so-called "opposition" are nothing but old molds from the Marcos fascist dictatorship.

Even GMA ,whom De Quiros tagged as "just the beneficiary" of Edsa 2, has turned *presidentita non grata* downgrading our economic, political and cultural life.

Are we therefore left with no hope? Of course not. I agree with De Quiros' faith in our people, especially in our youth and the vision to unite in troubled times. We can still produce alternatives to Erap and GMA. Bayan proposes a collective leadership (PDI 1/15/05) in case GMA is unseated. Bayan secretary-general Renato Reyes said: "A democratic coalition government is a more desirable alternative to the President rather than the old formula of constitutional succession that only empowers the traditional politicians and the elite."

I firmly believe that our four decades of struggle and unity against oligarchism, fascism, graft and corruption, criminality and poverty has produced a new breed of leaders who will truly serve the people and are willing to pay the price to make their dreams come true.

Reyes added: "A collective form of leadership is desirable because the people will have a chance to be heard and to participate in government, unlike what happened after Edsa 2 when power was held by a corrupt few." This is the true empowerment of the people. An idea powerful enough to unite our country amidst the worsening conditions.

—EDUARDO R. SERRANO,
political prisoner,
Oriental Mindoro
Provincial Jail,
Calapan City

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What is your reaction to Imelda Marcos' elation over the US court ruling preventing human rights victims from sharing $683 million in Marcos assets that was turned over to the government?

very Imeldific!
—**jona obiña**, *diliman, qc*

Imelda shud not jump like a chimpanzee becoz the ruling still proved and affirmed that Marcos was a thief.
—**jack rubiano**, *samal, bataan*

i think it ridicules d victims rights. It is their money after all, so why wouldn't they give it back to d people?
—**keith briones**, *quezon city*

grabe naman yan, dapat talagang bayaran ang mga human rights victims kasi sila ang inapi dito at wala nang iba!
—**JOHN RAYMOND BABANO**, *roxas city*

its another case of wealth and power against the poor and the helpless. it will be another precedent
—**dan ballener**, *iloilo*

Sad, very sad. Kawawa naman mga tao na naapi, mahirap na nga tayo, mas lalo pa tayong pinahirapan.
—**Joel Quintela**, *Tagum City*

imeldific talaga!

mrs. marcos clearly has no concern 4d victims & amazingly believes she has done nothing wrong.
—**paolo casimiro**, *qc*

time 2 call in d NPA or d ABA-RPA 2 exact justice dat has long evaded d human rights victims & in d process, spare us from her
—**Raul G Sarmiento**, *City of San Fernando*

its another "pay back" time deal of US. A roundabout! Nothing surprising amongst toppled dictators of other allied countries.
—**denny muñoz**, *pqe*

Kawawa naman sila. VICTIMS na nga sila, NGAYON VICTIM ULI? Kawawa naman.
—**ROBERT BAUTISTA**, *quezon city*

4 me, cguro masmaganda kung magtulungan nlang tayo para sa ikauunlad ng ating ekonomiya, rather dan 2 focus on marcos
—**zenaida caguioa**, *urdaneta city*

I hope hon. Sens. Jingoy and Jamby will be prudent with the peoples money and stop using the senate to attack their enemies!
—**Andrew**, *manila*

Well well, no Comment
—**Greg Saraos**, *Intramuros, Manila*

Kasalanan pa yan ng mga biktima kung makipagshare sila ng nakaw na pera. Kapag tumanggap sila, wala sila pinagkaiba
—**Randy R. DEFENIO**, *iloilo*

d godbless america comment by mrs marcos is a direct insult not just 2d human rights victims but 2 all Filipinos.
—**paolo casimiro**, *qc*

wat marcos assets? Dey r already gone as d government used it already in der past & previous expenditures.
—**gilda Miguel**, *san mateo, rizal*

Very IMELDEFIC !!!
—**victor huelva**, *Quezon city*

siguro nasa bayan natin ang suwerte at sa ating sarili kung tayo'y magkakaisa.
—**aaron h Garcia**, *dosma, cavite*

Her millions won't assure her a place in heaven. Her elation shows her base & vulgar nature, despite her social status.
—**Fridah Agustin**, *Cotabato City*

imeldific!!! I expected dat reaction considering dat imelda is d classic human rights violator!
—**gerry singson**, *vigan city*

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Rebs kill 4 cops in airport, road attacks

LEGAZPI CITY—Four police officers and a civilian died while seven others, including Senior Supt. Gorgonio Rosero, Catanduanes provincial police director, were wounded in two separate attacks by members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Virac, Catanduanes yesterday morning.

SPO2 Rolando Gurubat, chief of the communications division of the Catanduanes Provincial Police Office (CPPO), identified those killed as SPO2 Rodolfo Cortez and Benedicto Toquero, both assigned to the PNP Aviation Security Command office at the Virac domestic airport; PO1 Arnold Sagrit of the CPPO and Victoriano Reuyan, civilian aide of Rosero.

Reports reaching Camp Francisco Camacho in Virac town said four rebels fired at Cortez and Toquero as they were manning the airport main gate where people come in and out for the morning Philippine Airlines flight.

The assailants were seen in two motorcycles. They took with them the service firearms of the victims.

Reinforcement

A reinforcement team led by Rosero rushed to the scene and pursued the rebels but they were ambushed at about 7:30 a.m. in Barangay Puniton in Virac town, some 10 km from the airport.

Sagrit and Reuyan died in the second attack while PO2 Elmer Pintor, driver; and POls Christopher Bendal, Erwin Jaucian, Franco Durantes, Ronald Suliao and a certain Garaspe and Rosero were wounded.

Rosero, who suffered three gunshot wounds in the head, leg and body, was brought to the Eastern Bicol Medical Center in Virac town with the other wounded policemen.

Gurubat said Rosero was undergoing surgery and would be airlifted to Metro Mahila.

Rosero is in a critical condition.

Gurubat said government forces and rebels were still exchanging gunfire as of yesterday afternoon.

Police pointed to the NPA's Eduardo Banaag Command operating in Catanduanes as responsible for the attacks. They said they believed that the rebels retaliated after one of their comrades, Ramil Pelagio, 24, was arrested by CPPO members on Feb. 11 after a warrant of arrest was issued by RTC Branch 42 for a murder case against him.

Pelagio was allegedly one of the rebels who raided the Bagamanoc Municipal Police Office in 2001, killing two policemen.

'Happy Valentine's'

He was alleged to be a commander of the armed movement in Catanduanes.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal admitted that NPA guerrillas were the ones responsible for the ambush.

"I was informed by the Nerissa San Juan NPA command operating in Catanduanes that its operatives were the ones who did the ambush. But I don't have yet the specific details of the incident," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

He said there is only one NPA squad operating in Catanduanes, the Nerissa San Juan Command.

He said the same NPA unit could also be the one that ambushed the group of Rosero. "That's a standard strategic procedure, to also hit the reinforcement team."

Rosal claimed that the attackers confiscated one M-16 rifle and one 9mm Bereta pistol.

He added: "I wish to extend my Valentine's greetings to all the members of the NPA unit who perpetrated the successful offensive operation."

Rosal also called on the other NPA units across the country to also carry out similar offensives against government forces.

He also conveyed his Valentine message to all the members of the military and police: "The corrupt government that you're serving is not worth fighting for."

Job B. Belen, Jed Ll. Bacason, Leo Martin B. Ganace and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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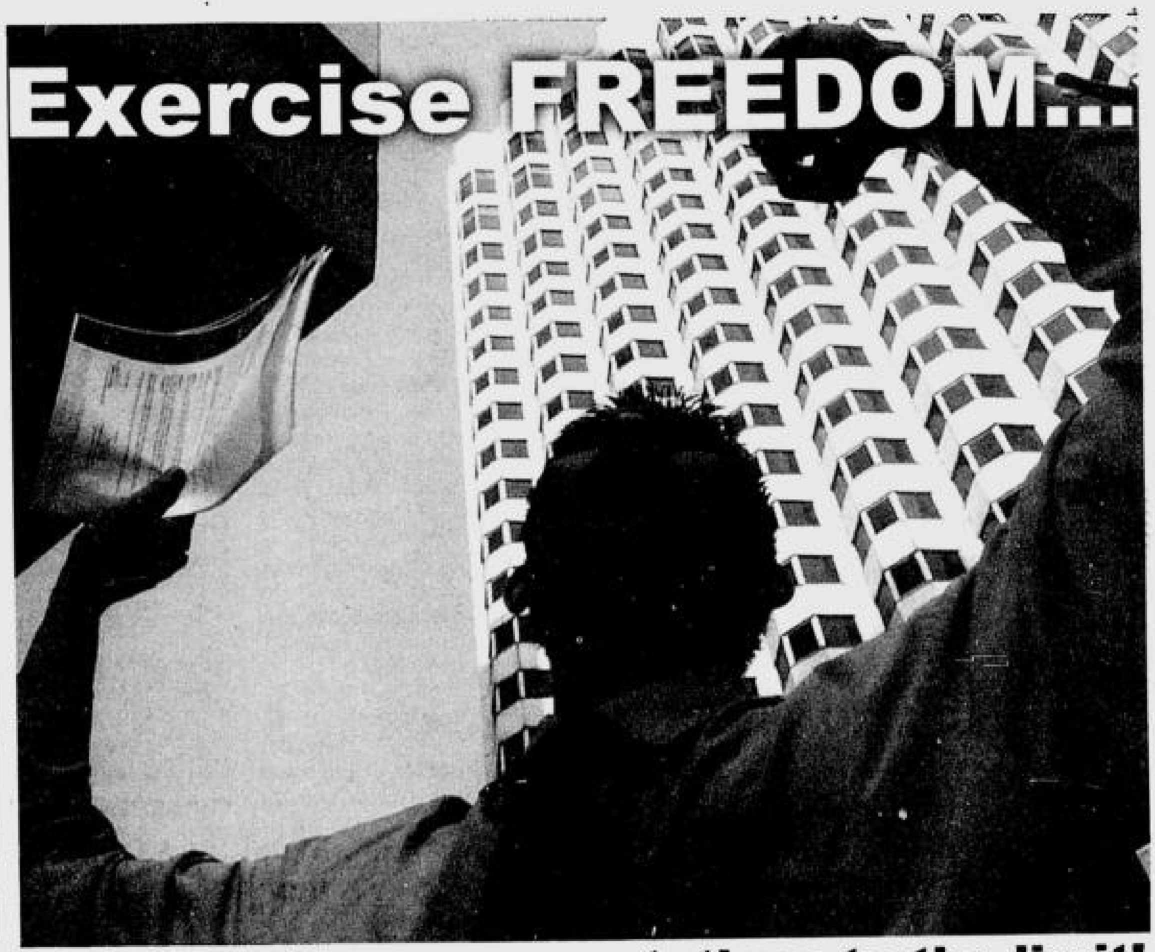
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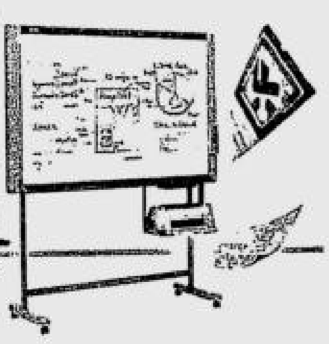

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Lack of jobs driving logging workers hungry

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Hunger stalks some 300 displaced employees of a logging company in Casiguran, Northern Aurora, with some resorting to timber poaching or relying on dole-outs, Mayor Reynaldo Bitong told the INQUIRER by phone.

Former Mayor Jeremias Esteves, in a separate interview, confirmed this but said some employees had been stealing metal scraps at the compound of the Industries Development Corp., which was closed in December.

The IDC was one of 20 logging companies ordered closed when Environment Secretary Michael Defensor imposed a total log ban throughout Aurora and Quezon.

The moratorium came on the heels of a series of flash floods and landslides which were blamed on logging. The disaster, which occurred on the heels of four typhoons, killed more than 1,500 people and left some 5,000 families homeless in those two eastern Luzon provinces.

"*Hirap na hirap at gutom na sila* (They're really hard-up and are hungry)," Esteves said.

Bitong said on Monday alone, he gave P500 each to the families of at least 20 IDC workers.

Esteves said the displaced employees could not borrow money from their relatives among farmers who had not yet recovered from the destruction wrought by the typhoons.

Bitong, like Esteves, said the renewed campaign of the national government against illegal logging was bound to fail if it was not complemented with employment assistance projects.

Casiguran, a third-class town, relies much on internal revenue allotments, which total P45 million this year. Located 300 km east of Manila, most of its more than 27,000 residents rely on fishing and farming.

Esteves said because there were limited flatlands for farming, Casiguran residents exploit the forests, which comprise more than 50 percent of the town's 70,000-hectare land area.

But Bitong blamed previous and present local officials, saying "many of them are connected to illegal logging." He singled out Sangguniang Bayan members, who, he claimed, had been "sabotaging" him by the non-passage of this year's budget. According to Bitong, residents and companies connive with DENR personnel in illegal logging.

Luisita Pontigon, the new community environment and natural resources officer, could not be reached for comment. He reported earlier the rising number of illegal logging cases and expansion of areas for *kaingin* (slash-and-burn farming).

From Feb. 1, he said the haul of illegally-cut Philippine mahogany had reached 6,000 board feet.

"*Ganoon katindi dito* (That's how bad illegal logging is here)," Bitong said of the industry that evolved in the remote town. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

General accused of rights abuses installed amid protests

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Brig. Gen. Jovito Palparan formally took over as head of the Philippine Army in Eastern Visayas last week in a "hastily done" ceremony and despite the opposition of human rights group.

Palparan, 54, was installed as 8th Infantry Division chief during a turnover rite on Feb. 10 at Camp Lukban in Barangay Maulong in Catbalogan town, Samar.

He replaced Brig. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, who held the post in an acting capacity on Jan. 5 when then 8th ID chief, Maj. Gen. Glen Rabonza, retired from the service. Ramos would serve as personal staffer of Palparan.

But the staff of the 8th ID headquarters failed to invite members of the media in Eastern Visayas to attend the turnover ceremony like what they used to do.

"It was hastily done because General Palparan had to leave for Indonesia for some speaking engagements," Ramos explained.

Palparan was expected to return to the country and assume his post this week. He left for Jakarta, Indonesia, on Saturday.

Human rights groups in Eastern Visayas assailed Palparan's appointment as the new commanding general of the 8th ID.

Lito Gacusana, regional secretary general of farmer's group Sagupa-Eastern Visayas, claimed that Palparan had no respect for the rights of ordinary people, including farmers.

"Palparan has unpaid blood debts among farmers and from the struggling masses as a whole. We must not let that go unpaid. Our farmers have been continuously victimized by militarization brought about by the government's iron fist. We do not want another thorn to prick us to death," Gacusana told the INQUIRER.

Gacusana was referring to the alleged human rights abuses of Palparan when he was the commanding officer of the 204th Army Infantry Brigade from 2002 to 2004.

But Ramos defended Palparan's appointment, saying the Army's top gun was a "nice man" and a "very effective Army officer."

"Any accusation against him has no basis at all and is unfair. Now, if they have a complaint against General Palparan, why not bring it to the proper forum or to the court?" said Ramos.

He added that these complaints against Palparan were just "insinuations" and were only "meant to malign him."

Ramos also brushed aside the allegations made by New People's Army spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal that cases of human rights abuses in the region would "escalate" following the designation of Palparan as 8th ID chief.

"He (Rosal) is just afraid and affected. I know he (Palparan) is in a position to neutralize the enemy in the region," he told the INQUIRER.

Eastern Visayas is one of the regions in the country where the insurgency continues to thrive.

Ramos, who is from Maasin City, Southern Leyte, said Palparan's father was from Malitbog, Southern Leyte. "He spent his younger days there. He is definitely welcome in the region."

Vigilance leads to rescue of endangered turtle

CHILDREN watch over the captured Hawksbill turtle prior to its release to its natural habitat.
PHOTO FROM SARANGANI INFORMATION OFFICE

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The vigilance of a mangrove resort owner in Glan, Sarangani province saved a Hawksbill turtle, an endangered marine species, from becoming food for a fishing family.

The sea turtle was captured Thursday evening by the fisherman, who lives inside the 1.3-hectare mangrove resort owned by Marina Jamero Restauro in Barangay Lago, according to Sarangani information officer Serafin Ramos Jr.

He said the turtle was apparently laying eggs at the grassy portion of the resort when it was found by the fisherman.

Ramos said Jamero was sitting outside her resort store when he saw the fisherman dragging the sea creature to his house.

Ramos said Jamero asked the fisherman what he was going to do with the turtle.

"When the fisherman did not answer, (Jamero) called me," Ramos said.

Ramos said he went to the area with his staff and retrieved the turtle in time.

The turtle, measuring about 30 inches long and 25 inches wide, weighs about 90 lbs.

The fisherman later told reporters he was aware that harming turtles and other endangered species is unlawful.

He said he used to work with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as caretaker of the mangrove forest in the area.

In a separate interview, Jamero told reporters residents usually butcher turtles they catch.

She said she was able to buy a shell of one of the butchered turtles in the area.

Jamero said her desire to protect the turtles in the area led to the family's decision to relocate from the town center to Barangay Lago.

On Friday morning, the turtle was released backed to the Sarangani Bay. Attached to its flipper was a tag that says "P-17696, PAWB PCP DENR Quezon City." PCP stands for Pawikan Conservation Program.

At around noon on the same day, a group of children playing around the resort reported that they saw a nest of turtles' eggs.

Ramos said he and his group went to the area to check on the report.

He said they found the nest, took some pictures of it then covered it with sand.

But the following morning, Ramos said the eggs disappeared.

Apparently, some people took interest in it, he said.

Guiseppe Chew, a marine biologist, agreed that the Hawksbill turtle was laying eggs when it was captured.

He said the sea creature might have not possibly fully-laid her eggs due to the disturbance.

Chew said there was a big possibility the turtle would come back if the nest was left undisturbed.

A website devoted to conservation of turtles described Hawksbills as having "strong site fidelity to specific nesting beach areas and are capable of returning to the same place season after season."

The Hawksbill is listed as an endangered species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the Philippine Endangered Species Act of 1973.
Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Steps taken to put out 2-week Bacolod dump fire

BACOLOD CITY—The Bacolod City government has began implementing measures recommended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to put out the fire raging at the old dump in Purok Tongoy, Barangay Mandalagan.

Allan Perez, acting chief of the Department of Public Services, said they covered the dump with 10-inch thick soil as recommended by DENR experts.

Perez said they would complete these measures in 15 days after which the city would reactivate a drainage system, which was covered by the garbage.

In a month, he added, the DPS would level the old dump and install pipes that would release methane gas from decomposing garbage and control combustion.

These measures were recommended by Reggie Salvano, geologist of the DENR's National Solid Waste Management Commission, and Raul Jardin, project development officer, who inspected the dump.

Salvano said the fire could not be put out by water. "Our immediate recommendation is for it to be covered with soil and to embed 4 inches in diameter, 15 feet high pipes every 10 square meters to allow the release of methane gas," he said.

The one-hectare Mandalagan dump is 10 years old and has wastes measuring about 20 meters deep. It was closed in January after a city-controlled dump was opened in Barangay Felisa. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Mass wedding in Hundred Islands caps 'day of love'

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ALAMINOS Mayor Hernani Braganza and wife Stella lead couples in a kissing contest that followed a mass wedding in the Hundred Islands.
CARMELA DE LEON

ALAMINOS CITY—Love was all around the Hundred Islands National Park here as 100 couples sealed their love during a mass civil wedding on Valentine's Day.

The wedding, officiated by Mayor Hernani Braganza, was held in a beach cove in the coastal village of Pandan.

Braganza described the village as a "paradise" yet to be discovered by nature lovers and even residents who seemed to have overlooked the gift of nature right in their midst.

He said the beach wedding kicked off the Pista'y Dayat (feast of the sea) celebration in the city to support the provincial government's tourism program.

It was just a right ambience for the 100 couples to start a new life—clear skies, a blue sea, soft breeze, gentle waves and the 100 islands as mute witnesses to their promise to love each other forever.

Of the 100 couples, 33 were already living-in for five years or more while the rest were married couples renewing their vows or marrying for the first time.

The village heads and other officials were the godfathers of the couples. The ceremony was simple and solemn but it had the usual customary trimmings of a wedding ceremony.

The beach was lined with flower arrangements and the brides, resplendent in pretty white dresses or their Sunday best, wore white veils given by the city government.

After Braganza pronounced the couples husbands and wives, the affair assumed a festive air, with the release of blue and white balloons and the longest kiss contest capping the ceremonies. A reception was also prepared for the couples and their guests. While most of the couples have been living in for several years, they got shy and refused to join the longest kiss contest, which was won by Milo and Arlene Abara of Pogo village.

Braganza and his wife joined the revelry by leading the "kiss the bride" rite and the wine and cake ceremonies. Duhat wine was served to promote the product of neighboring town Dasol.

"I felt like I'm also getting married," Braganza said.

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INQBox Question of the Week

A survey says that more Filipinos are unhappy with their lovelife. What can be done to make your lovelife happier?

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Senders of d best 10 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBox *wiL each receiv an "Inquirer Mug! 0*

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to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

AN URGENT APPEAL
TO SAVE THE PHILIPPINE WOOD-BASED INDUSTRIES

Many of the Philippines wood-based industries are on the verge of collapse.

With the blanket suspension of logging operations since December 8, 2004, the government has unfairly penalized legitimate wood companies which have been carrying out sustainable forest management in the country's best-covered forest areas for decades. Not only have operations of legitimate wood-producers ground to a halt; the lack of supply of wood products are threatening other industries dependent on wood in the housing, furniture and export sectors.

As a result:

1. Wood processing plants all over the country involved in the manufacture of lumber, veneer and plywood, posts, poles and pulp-as well as wood-based furniture firms – have scaled down operations and will start closing shop in the next two weeks.
2. Two million Filipinos in the wood producing and furniture industries are in grave danger of losing their jobs.
3. With the export commitments in jeopardy, the Philippines stands to lose its share of the export market for high value-added finished wood products estimated at PhP 21 billion annually.
4. Wood prices have gone up by 40 percent due to tight supply and expensive import substitutes, hurting consumers and inflating costs in the furniture, construction and mass housing sectors.
5. Small tree farmers in public lands are growing restless as they cannot harvest the trees they planted by law (PD 1559).
6. With the country in no position to import wood requirements estimated at PhP 28 billion a year, illegal loggers are filling the void to meet the basic need for wood.

We make this urgent appeal to Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and DENR Secretary Michael Defensor to immediately lift the temporary suspension of logging in areas under the stewardship of companies and groups with a proven track record in sustainable forest management. Please act now to save over PhP 28 billion of investments in upstream and downstream wood-based industries.

In turn, we pledge to work with the government to formulate and implement a master plan that will curb illegal logging and guarantee the long-term sustainability of the Philippine forests.

PHILIPPINE WOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (PWPA)
PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (PCCI)
FEDERATION OF PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIES (FPI)
PHILIPPINE EXPORTERS CONFEDERATION INC. (PHILEXPORT)
PHILIPPINE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (PCA)
CHAMBER OF FURNITURE INDUSTRIES OF THE PHILIPPINES (CFIP)
CHAMBER OF MINES OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Text from battlefield: 'We've been ambushed … Pray for me'

By Job Belen
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TABACO CITY—At 9:16 a.m. on Feb. 8, a Tuesday, Marine 1st Lt. Reynaldo Ricalde called his sister Michelle and said he and his men had been ambushed but that he had only suffered abrasions.

Minutes later, he texted her and said: *"Ipangadyi na sana nindo ako, bantayan si Mama saka si Jet-Jet* (I hope you pray for me, take care of Mama and Jet-Jet)."

Jet-Jet, 10, is Ricalde's youngest of four siblings.

The following day, a message came from Camp Gen. Simeon Ola informing the Ricalde family that the 29-year-old lieutenant had died and extending the Armed Forces leadership's condolences.

Love for soldiery

Ricalde was among some 30 soldiers who have been killed in the eight-day-old fighting on Jolo between the military and Moro guerrillas.

A 1998 graduate of Bicol University and a licensed electrical engineer, Ricalde really wanted to become a soldier, said Michelle, 23.

"Even though he had already passed the board exams for engineers, he joined the Army training in Tanay, Rizal, for several months but unfortunately he was not enlisted," the sister said.

Undeterred, Ricalde got into the Navy and was assigned to the Marines.

Military dreams

The eldest son of Jose and Sonia Ricalde graduated valedictorian from the Pawa Elementary School in this city and showed his bent for soldiery early.

He was corps commander of the Citizens Army Training in high school and held the same post in college when he took up the Reserved Officers Training Course (ROTC).

After completing ROTC, he took an advance military course, bent on going into military service.

Marietta Sanchez, who was Ricalde's Grade 5 teacher, described him as a responsible although silent schoolboy. She particularly remembered his legible handwriting.

'Happy birthday, sis'

Two days before his unit came under attack on Jolo, Ricalde made sure to get in touch with Michelle to wish her a happy birthday.

Family members said the AFP leadership had recommended that Ricalde be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Makati City, but they preferred that his remains be brought to the family residence here.

The body of the young lieutenant was to be flown to Legazpi City by military plane today.

Misuari linked to MNLF attacks in Sulu

From page A1

soldiers arrived yesterday as OV10 bomber planes again pounded suspected hideouts of MNLF gunmen on the border of Panamao and Maimbung towns, military officials said.

More reinforcements

The latest deployment pushed the number of soldiers on the island to about 3,000.

Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of Task Force Comet, put the number of the rebels under Ustadz Habier Malik at about 300.

But a statement put up on the website of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a major separatist group engaged in peace talks with the government, said Moro fighters were being sent to Sulu to reinforce the insurgents.

The statement said 3,000 to 3,500 new MNLF fighters had just arrived on Jolo.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, reached by the INQUIRER, said he could not confirm the information.

About 30 soldiers have been killed in the fighting, against a military estimate of more than 40 rebels killed.

The fighting erupted on Monday last week after guerrillas, allegedly angered by the killing by soldiers of some civilians during an operation against the Abu Sayyaf on Feb. 1, attacked an Army detachment on Jolo.

Dema-ala said Malik's group continued to retreat while continuing to battle the attacking soldiers.

He said the military's "concern right now is the complete destruction or neutralization of the group of Malik."

"Fresh forces are inserted to replace the weary and tired troops. They are entitled to a break," Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza said.

Valentine's Day break

Among those given a break were soldiers from the battle-scarred 53rd Infantry Battalion, whose commander, Lt. Col. Dennis Villanueva, was killed in a mortar attack last week.

His replacement, Maj. Emmanuel Sison, has also been wounded.

Dema-ala said the break would enable the soldiers to "have some few moments off to send text messages to their loved ones on Valentine's Day."

The 53rd IB and the main units involved in the operation included former MNLF fighters who had been integrated into the military.

Close to 500 integrees are spread out in three major Army battalions in Sulu, such as the 53rd IB, 33rd IB and 35th IB, according to Army spokesperson Maj. Bartolome Vicente Bacarro.

"We are sure and very confident that the loyalty of these integrees are [with] the Filipino people and the country," Dema-ala said.

He said the rebels continued to suffer from lack of food and ammunition and that "it's just a matter of time" before the military completely took control of the whole area of Bitanag, a guerrilla stronghold.

"(But) I will not give a timetable," he said.

Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, Air Force spokesperson, said government planes again pounded rebel positions starting 6 a.m. yesterday.

Bombed again

Two OV-10 planes flew at least two sorties each, dropping 260-pound bombs on Malik's group.

There was no immediate report of casualties but Padilla said the pilots hit their targets.

"Assessment from the ground troops confirmed that group commanders are now advancing to areas. It means our pilots are hitting their target," Padilla told the INQUIRER.

The continuous bombings have also triggered more evacuations.

Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong said the number of people evacuees had risen to about 17,000 as of yesterday.

Dema-ala said the military was coordinating with civilian officials to help the displaced villagers.

"We have already addressed some of their concerns, particularly the support for food and other medical requirements of the evacuees," he said.

Ermita did not say if Malacañang would punish Misuari for the current fighting.

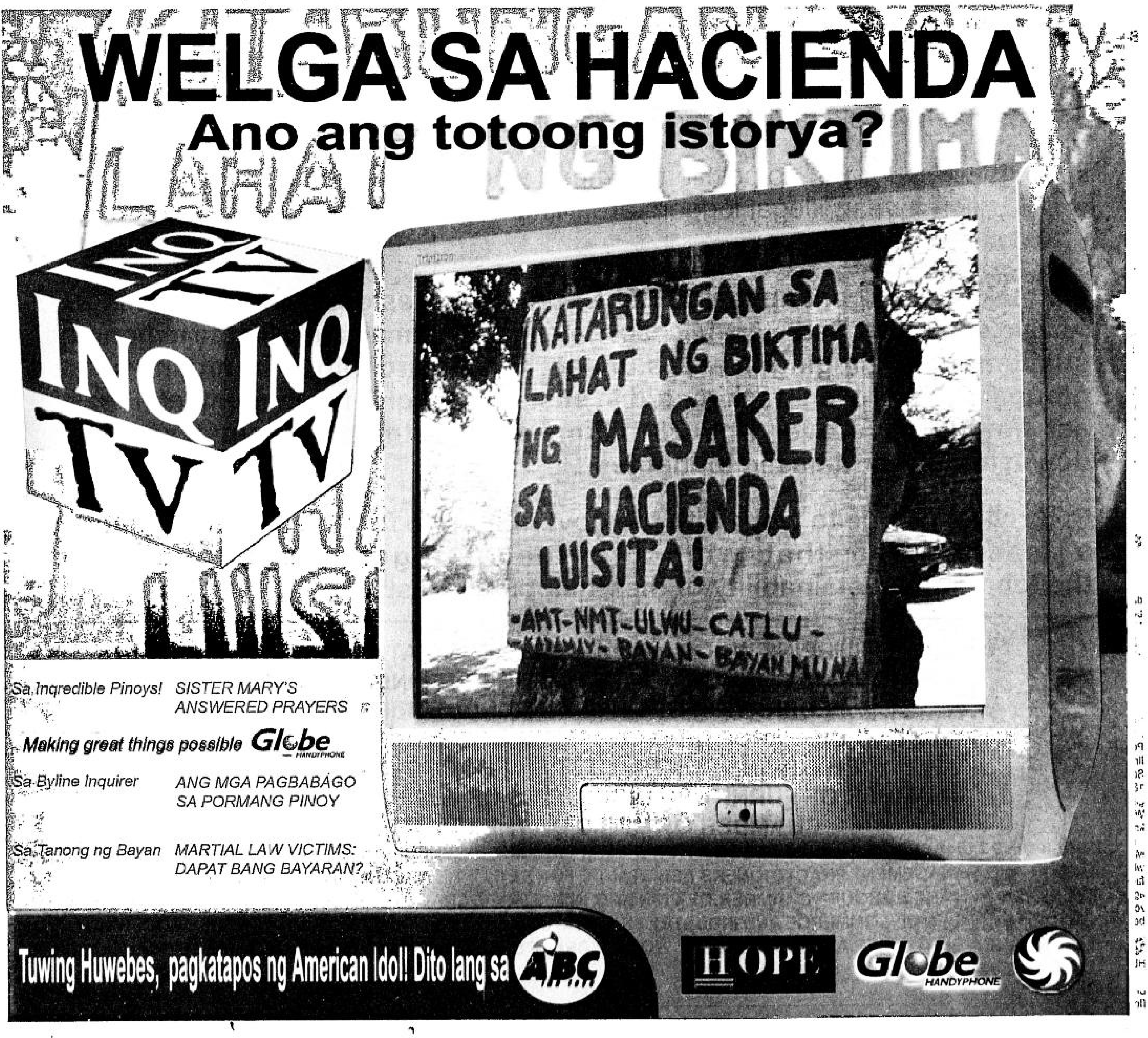
He said the jailed Moro rebel leader's alleged involvement in the action of his followers could complicate his pending rebellion case.

"I hope this will not complicate his pending case. I think he should be more careful now so that he will be looked upon in a better light by the authorities," Ermita said when asked if Misuari would be held responsible for the clashes.

"Not necessarily," he said when asked if Misuari would be investigated in connection with the Jolo flareup.

"What do we need to investigate? The man is already in jail and he is no longer allowed (to communicate with his men)." *With reports from Ed General, Julie Alipala, Edwin Fernandez and Joselle dR Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Alcuin Papa in Manila*

CHILDREN watch soldiers arriving in their hometown of Jolo. Troops have mounted a full-scale offensive against Moro rebels hiding out in the mountains of the island. AP



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Ano ang totoong istorya?

Sa Inqredible Pinoys! SISTER MARY'S ANSWERED PRAYERS

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Sa Byline Inquirer ANG MGA PAGBABAGO SA PORMANG PINOY

Sa Tanong ng Bayan MARTIAL LAW VICTIMS: DAPAT BANG BAYARAN?

Tuwing Huwebes, pagkatapos ng American Idol! Dito lang sa ABC

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Kidnap gang leader falls in QC raid

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COUNTRY'S list of 20 most wanted criminals is now one fugitive less.

Amado Bucala Jr., a notorious kidnap gang leader, was arrested during a police operation in Novaliches, Quezon City, at around 8 p.m. Sunday, according to Chief Supt. Dionisio Coloma, Region 8 police director and head of the tracker team.

The arrest was the culmination of a nationwide hunt that began in Calbayog City, Samar, Coloma said.

Bucala, leader of a gang carrying his name, was 11th on the Philippine National Police's most wanted list, with a P550,000 prize on his head.

Bucala used the aliases George Corpuz, Taba, Joven, Engineer Corpuz, Humilde Corpuz and Botyog for his group's kidnapping activities.

Authorities tracked down Bucala with the help of neighbors who had seen his picture on a PNP poster.

Last year, the PNP printed hundreds of posters of its 20 most wanted criminals, as part of Director General Edgar Aglipay's order to account for high-profile fugitives.

The posters were put up in thickly populated areas like bus and train stations, schools, markets and malls.

Aglipay had required field commanders to arrest at least five wanted persons in their respective jurisdictions.

Failure to comply with the directive meant a dressing down or outright dismissal from the post.

Bucala's arrest brought to three the number of fugitives so far arrested who were on the PNP list.

Last year, police caught the top fugitive, Ricardo Peralta, who was wanted for kidnapping, double murder and gun running.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, backed by local authorities, also arrested top kidnap for ransom suspect Eddie Trinidad in the US.

Trinidad is still going through extradition proceedings.

Others on the PNP's top 10 list who are still at large are Corey Dickpus, Eduardo Iran, brothers Rolando and Harold Fajardo, Allan Estrada, Raul Villar, Ben Ventura and Tiggre Jakiri.

Black, not red, reigned on Mapua campus

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE DAY of love was not a happy one for thousands of students of the Mapua Institute of Technology who protested the school's impending name change to Malayan Colleges.

Instead of red, black was the predominant color yesterday at Mapua's campus in Intramuros, Manila, as the students—calling themselves the United Mapuans—came to school wearing black shirts. They boycotted their classes to hold a daylong prayer vigil.

Armando Cristobal, official spokesperson of the group, said the students held the vigil to prevent school officials from changing the school's name. He said a name change would be tantamount to disregarding the legacy of the school's founder, Tomas Mapua.

Cristobal said Mapua's vision was for the school's engineering courses to cater to poor students who would build companies that would help fellow Filipinos.

Board topnotchers

The 80-year-old school is well-known for its engineering and architecture programs, whose graduates have topped licensure examinations.

"Our request is simple. The legacy of Don Tomas is important to us. The term Mapuans is important to us. Our parents enrolled us here to graduate as Mapuans, not as Malayans," Cristobal said. Students learned, he added, that diplomas of this year's graduates would already carry the name Malayan Colleges.

Cristobal criticized school officials for not consulting students before effecting the change.

Last week's announcement took students by surprise. Cristobal said it would be hard for them to trust the school again.

Mapua president Dr. Reynaldo Vea said the name change was a step toward the school's expansion to a university. He said the school had started offering courses other than engineering and architecture since 2000 after the takeover by the Yuchengco Group of Companies. The offering of additional courses is one of the requirements for attaining university status.

Mapua's new courses are nursing, psychology, biotechnology and business administration.

"If the school continued to be called Mapua, we felt there might be a certain dilution also because the Mapua name is closely associated with technology, engineering," Vea told the INQUIRER.

No formal change yet

This concern prompted school officials to choose Malayan Colleges, although Vea said the board had yet to set the date for the official change of the school's name.

He told students that the name Mapua Institute of Technology need not be lost. It could still be used for the College of Engineering and Architecture of the Malayan University since a university could name its colleges.

"The name Mapua will not be lost. it will stay there. Is there any reason why it should be eclipsed by the name Malayan Colleges?" he said in an interview.

He cited the well-known Wharton Business School. Few people knew it was actually part of the University of Pennsylvania, he said.

Vea added the name change was never meant to relegate Mapua to the background.

"Our intention is, in fact, to make it better known and that is why we are going for university status. Academically speaking, a technology school can become even better if the professional training is based on an interdisciplinary approach to problems," he said.

Cristobal said yesterday's mass action united different fraternities, student organizations, faculty and alumni. He said the United Mapuans would wait for the school officials' announcement on whether or not to push through with the change.

Vea said nobody would be penalized for the mass action because the school respected freedom of expression and also wanted to know the students' sentiments.

METROBRIEFS

Pedrozo shows up

SUPT. Marcelino Pedrozo, dismissed Western Police District (WPD) station commander, yesterday showed up at Camp Crame to belie accusations made by former National Bureau of Investigation agent Martin Soriano linking him and 17 other policemen to Soriano's alleged illegal activities. Pedrozo had earlier ignored a summons by Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay to appear before his superiors. Insisting that he and the 17 others were innocent, Pedrozo claimed Soriano had only linked them to save his own neck. Soriano had "randomly" linked the 18 WPD men when he was shown a gallery of officers assigned to the WPD, Pedrozo said, adding that he knew about Soriano only after they were introduced by GMA 7 reporter Michael Fajatin last Jan. 14. Asked why he trusted Soriano despite the fact that he knew that the ex-NBI agent had a checkered past, Pedrozo admitted he and his men had been duped. *Christian Esguerra*

QC bank robbed

HEAVILY armed robbers took advantage of the Valentine's Day celebration yesterday and posed as flower delivery boys as they held up a Metrobank branch in Quezon City. The robbers entered the bank at the corner of Visayas and Congressional Avenues shortly after the bank opened for business, said Central Police District Director Nicasio Radovan. He said two suspects initially entered the bank, followed by three others carrying flowers for delivery. The other suspects, holding M-14 and M-16 rifles, followed and disarmed three security guards. Failing to open the vault, the suspects took money from the teller booths and valuables from clients inside the bank. The 10 suspects fled on board a white L300 van, a beige Grandia Toyota Van, and a green Nissan van. *Tina G. Santos*

No TFA

THE LOCAL franchisee of fast-food giant McDonalds assured the public yesterday that the oil used in their products does not contain artery-clogging trans fatty acids or TFA. This clarification came after reports that McDonald's in the United States recently agreed to pay $8.5 million to settle a lawsuit that trans fats were used in cooking their products. Margot Torres, McDonalds Philippines vice president for marketing, said their products sold locally were prepared using palm olein oil or Formula 47. *Irene Perez*

Gov't victory in Sulu not enough

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE MILITARY said that as of yesterday, the overall government death toll was 30 against 40 on the side of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). That's a difference of 10 in favor of the government. With all its firepower and manpower, the military killed only 40 MNLF rebels. Couldn't they have done better?

Let's face it: the more casualties government troops can inflict on the MNLF, the less chance the rebels will have of waging war against the government in the future. The body count is important because it will show how much damage the government has inflicted on the MNLF.

But I wonder if the body count on the MNLF side was accurate since no bodies of slain Moros were recovered by government troops. If that figure was supported by a physical body count, I wonder how many of them were civilians caught in the crossfire.

If the renewed hostilities in Sulu were a basketball game, then the government team was ahead by only 10 points. Quite disheartening, considering the government has OV-10 warplanes laying 260-pound bombs and attack helicopters, and superior numbers.

And if Sulu's battles were a basketball game, then the present coaches of the government team —Gen. Efren Abu, Armed Forces chief of staff; and Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza, Southcom chief should be replaced by more competent coaches.

* * *

As a son of a former soldier, I sympathize with the widow of Lt. Col. Dennis Villanueva, the highest-ranking officer killed in the Sulu fighting so far. Ms Villanueva said her husband could have lived had there been blood supplies ready when her husband was hit by mortar fire. Col.Villanueva died due to loss of blood.

What a waste! A fine officer, a future general, dying in the battlefield because the government didn't see fit to improve its medical facilities! That wouldn't have happened during the time my father was a lieutenant in Sulu in the 1950s.

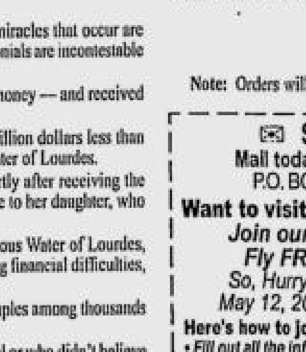
Back then, soldiers wounded in action received immediate medical attention. Now, can you blame soldiers if they don't have the fighting spirit because they think they won't get prompt medical attention when they're wounded?

* * *

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz assured Ms Villanueva that 50 mobile hospitals would be deployed in the front lines. Rather late in the day, Mr. Secretary! *Aanhin pa ang damo kung patay na ang kabayo* (O fwhat use is the grass if the horse is already dead), says a Filipino saying. Why do our government officials act only after the fact?

* * *

The military high command should unleash the "dogs of war," the Marines, on the MNLF rebels now on the run.



Special offering for the Feast of "Our Lady of Lourdes"

Statue Of The Virgin In A Dome Immersed In The *Miraculous* Water Of Lourdes

If you have one or more wishes you would like to come true quickly, read the following, before it's too late:

- Made by qualified craftsmen in Lourdes, France
- Glows in the dark!
- Accompanied by a certificate of authenticity stating that it is contained in a transparent dome filled with water taken from the source of the Miraculous Water of Lourdes

During my last trip to Europe, I was amazed to see how many people had these sumptuous statues of the Virgin. But what surprised me most was that this statue — made in Lourdes, France - - is covered by a clear dome *FILLED WITH THE MIRACULOUS WATER OF LOURDES.*

The first question that came to mind was: "Just why do so many people have this statue of the Virgin immersed in the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes?"

I immediately went to Lourdes to find out. What I discovered there is amazing.

It is no surprise that for more than a century, two million pilgrims have been traveling annually to Lourdes to be close to these waters with their limitless powers. And some of these individuals even manage to bring back some of the Miraculous Water of Lourdes with them.

Water from Lourdes: Miraculous Water with limitless powers

The Virgin has appeared *18 times* in Lourdes. And so Lourdes is considered to be the prime location on earth for powerful beneficial forces — the place where the world's most numerous and astounding miracles occur. There is no scientific explanation for the beneficial forces concentrated in the waters flowing from the sacred source in the Cave of Miracles.

Wherever this Water goes, the beneficial powers of Lourdes follow

A vast number of people who possess even a few drops of this water constantly attest to the positive changes and fortunate events that occur in all aspects of their lives: money, love, success, luck, fulfillment and happiness.

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To receive one or more statues, just fill in and mail the coupon below to the indicated address. We ask a mere contribution of P299 per statue to contribute to their distribution costs (+airfreight charges, insurance and customs handling).

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President, Lourdes Research Organization

Note: Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

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BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Pittsburgh vs Syracuse; 8 a.m. (r-9:30 p.m.); Kansas vs Texas Tech; 10 a.m. (r-6 p.m.); ESPN - The Panthers clash with the Orangemen while the Jayhawks hope to fly over the Red Raiders.
NBA - Jazz vs Suns; 10 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports - Utah travels to the desert to take on Phoenix.
TENNIS: ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament; 8:30 p.m. (r); STAR Sports - Rewind and take another look at the first round.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Jenny, Dorothy almost pull it off, tie for 2nd

DOROTHY Delasin lines up her putt as Jennifer Rosales looks on. The Filipinas and the Koreans tied for second place. AFP

JENNIFER Rosales and Dorothy Joy Delasin came tantalizingly close to victory until the Japanese pair exploded with back-to-back birdies and relegated the Philippine duo to a share of second place with South Korea Sunday in the Ladies World Cup of Golf at the Fancourt Estate's Links Course in George, South Africa.

Ai Miyazato and Rui Kitada scored the go-ahead birdies on the par-3 17th hole as Japan captured the crown by two strokes with a 289 total.

After sliding to ninth in the second round Saturday from a tie for third, Rosales and Delasin roared back in the aggregate format and held the clubhouse lead, with the Japanese still out on the 16th green.

Rosales holed her chip on the 18th to highlight a one-under-par 71 while Delasin backed her up with a 75. That gave the RP squad low scoring honors for the third round—an even-par 146—and a 291 total.

Jeong Jang scored a 74 and Bo Bae Song added a 75 as Korea matched that total and completed the big show by Asians in the inaugural event.

The youngest team in the field proved to be the best as 19-year-old Miyazato carded a six-under-par 67 behind a 31 on the front nine, cushioning 23-year-old Kitada's 82 in the last-day singles.

"This is a team event and all I did was try and lift my own game and concentrate," Miyazato said before bursting into tears. "The front nine was probably the best I've ever played."

The Japanese each received 80,529 euros and were awarded the World Cup trophy by South Africa's favorite son, Ernie Els.

For the Filipinos, the runner-up finish was worth 49,525 euros (about P3.5 million) each. Their feat also equaled the country's best windup in the men's World Cup event posted by Rudy Labares and the legendary Ben Arda in 1977.

Scotland's Janice Moodie (80) and Catriona Matthew (72) settled for fourth place, a further shot back after struggling on a course that yielded an average last-day score of four-over 77.

"Every day it got tougher and tougher," said Rosales. "The fairways were getting harder, the greens were getting harder. It's a tough course."

Jenny's 71 was one of only four under-par rounds for the day. The RP pair opened with a 68 in the opening better-ball play but could only score a 75 in the alternate-shot format Saturday.

Japan slipped back to one under after 16 holes, falling into a tie with the Philippines, which by then was already done for the day, and South Korea which had one more hole to play.

AI MIYAZATO (left) and Rui Kitada hold their trophy after the Japanese pair put away the first Women's World Cup of Golf title at the Fancourt Country Club in George, South Africa, on Sunday. REUTERS

Miyazato, who won more than $1 million with five wins in her rookie year on the Japan Tour last year, hit her tee shot on the 17th within three feet while Kitada holed a 15-foot putt.

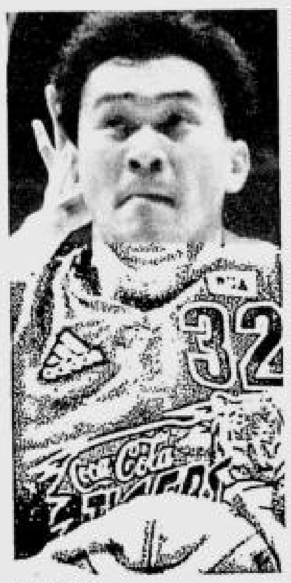
"That putt was the biggest in my career," Kitada, who has won twice on the Japanese Tour, said as tears streamed down her cheeks.

Although two versions of the Women's World Cup have previously been held, this was the first time the event has been co-sanctioned by the Ladies European Tour and the US Ladies Professional Golfers' Association. *With a report from Jong Arcano*

Allado-Juinio swap under negotiation

By June Navarro

ALLADO PDI PHOTO


JUINIO PDI PHOTO

DON ALLADO could finally get his wish to move out of the Alaska Aces as talks about an impending swap with Poch Juinio of the Coca-Cola Tigers intensified over the weekend.

After the Aces were booted out in the quarterfinals of the recent Philippine Cup, the 6-foot-6 Allado announced his desire to shop for another team before the start of the import-flavored second conference slated March 4.

Allado's prayers were answered when the Tigers expressed interest in the former UAAP MVP out of La Salle in exchange for Juinio, a reliable source told the INQUIRER.

Aside from Allado and Juinio, San Miguel Beer's Bryan Gahol, Ato Morano of Coca-Cola, Egay Billones of FedEx and Red Bull's Jimwell Torion are also on the trading block.

It's no secret that Allado had wanted out of Tim Cone's geometric system—the triangle offense, which favors mostly backcourt players in the flow of things.

What Allado aspires for is an offensive pattern designed to give him more frequent ball possession and plays that highlight his potentials inside the shaded area.

For Juinio, on the other hand, it would be a homecoming of sorts as the former UP Maroon began and played most of his 10-year PBA career as a member of the 1996 Alaska grand slam team. That squad also included Jeffrey Cariaso and Bong Hawkins, who recently returned to the Alaska fold after suiting up for several teams starting in the 2000 season.

Once the 6-foot-6 Juinio reunites with the Aces, only Johnny Abarrientos (Coca-Cola) will be missing from the powerhouse Alaska squad that won nine of their 10 championship titles in the '90s with Cone at the helm.

Abarrientos was the season MVP in 1996 and counted Juinio, Hawkins, Cariaso and Alaska assistant coach Jojo Lastimosa as teammates. *June Navarro*

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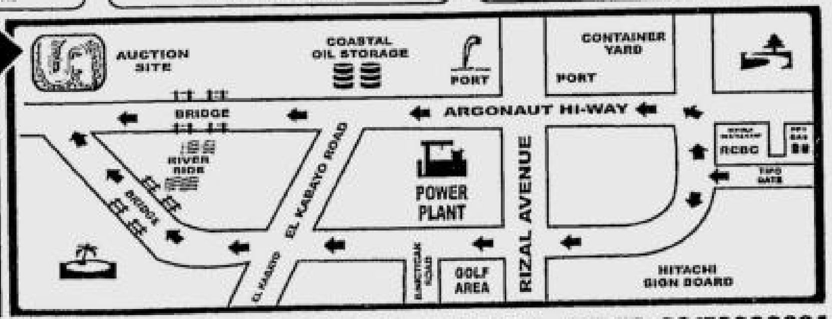

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All that hard work pays off for La Salle

LADY Archers jubilate after beating the Tigresses for the title. REM ZAMROA

OLIVER Almadro, the diminutive but able lieutenant of De La Salle coach Ramil de Jesus, said it all in the din of celebration after the Lady Archers had swept the University of Santo Tomas Tigresses for the Shakey's V-League second conference crown last Sunday.

"You can't succeed if you don't make sacrifices," said Almadro, after steering the Lady Archers to a 25-14, 25-18, 25-23 victory in Game 2 that wrapped up the best-of-three series before a record crowd of 6,000 at the Rizal Coliseum.

Truly, La Salle's sacrifices paid dividends as the Lady Archers, who came from behind to complete a stirring 27-29, 17-25, 25-22, 25-23, 15-7 win in the series' opener, finally achieved what they failed to do in the inaugural staging of the event put up by Shakey's Pizza.

"Of course, you should also count discipline and hard work as the other ingredients to our success," said Almadro, whose wards had prepared so hard for this conference, even plunging into workout during the holiday break last year to further polish their teamwork.

The result was a stirring 12-game win run, the longest streak posted in the fledgling league. Although it was snapped by unfancied Letran in the Final Four stage, the Archers showed their true worth by whipping the Lady Knights in the decider and then sweeping the Tigresses in the final.

Michelle Carolino and skipper Maureen Penetrante showed how La Salle improved this conference.

Carolino raised her game several notches up and was the Lady Archers' source of power and inspiration up front with her superb attacking game. Penetrante, on the other hand, provided the leadership and the rock-solid defense at the net.

And their performances didn't go unnoticed. Carolino and Penetrante won the MVP and best blocker honors, respectively, with teammates Reiea Saet (setter) and Shermaine Miles Penano (digger) likewise gaining the recognition they deserved.

There were also Michelle's sister Mayette, Manilla Santos and Desiree Hernandez, who provided additional firepower up front.

Valencia City NBC's first expansion team

VALENCIA City in Bukidnon has joined NBC to become the first expansion team for this year's national basketball championship starting on April 1.

NBC secretary general Tito Palma and Valencia Mayor Jose M. Galario Jr. sealed the agreement last weekend together with Valencia sports coordinator Rico Ocho.

"We're very happy to become a part of NBC," said Mayor Galario. "Bukidnon has so many untapped talents. By joining NBC, we will be able to put our city in the country's basketball map."

NBC president and national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla welcomed the addition of Valencia City to the Southern Conference. "Valencia will be a big addition to us. We believe it is capable of forming a competitive team."

Only three hours by bus from Cagayan de Oro City, Valencia has been holding tryouts for ma that many of the team hopefuls come from Bukidnon and nearby provinces.

Ocho is supported by city planning officer Junaida Prantilla, administrator Josefino Pabuco and city engineer Alfredo Guzman in managing the team.

NBC expects to have no less than 12 teams when it opens in April.

Through coach Allan Trinidad, Lubao mayor Dennis Pineda has expressed his desire to make Pampanga an expansion team for the Northern Conference.

In its first pre-season series last month, defending national champion Tribu Sugbu topped the Panasonic series by downing Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna in the finals.

Shots of the tournament; cheers to Gonz

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I SAW how Gerard Cantada and JR Tanpinco almost blew away their victory in the Konica Minolta National Pro-Am on Sunday at Riviera's tough Langer in Silang, Cavite.

I also saw how they recovered beautifully to score a rare back-to-back triumph in this oldest Pro-Am in Asia, whose birth 49 years ago became a high-water mark in Philippine golf.

Bert Bravo had been virtually on pins and needles stalking the three-tandem, championship flight.

"My God, this was what Tiger Woods was saying all along," said *Pareng* Bert, whose U-Bix Corporation as usual sponsored the Pro-Am for the fourth straight year. "The championship of every golf tournament is won on the final nine holes."

You can say that again, *Pareng* Bert.

Gerard and JR were two up on Mars Pucay and Jose Roy, and Tomokasu Yoshinaga and Yusuku Takao with four holes left in the P1.5-million, 72-hole battle of nerves, skill and talent.

On the par-4 15th, JR went for the green but missed, the ball landing in a hazard just on the edge of the green. Gerard saved par with a deft pitch for a "gimme."

But they made bogeys on 16 and 17 against pars by both their rivals to put all three pairs level going to the final hole, setting the stage for the knee-trembling finish.

What *Pareng* Bert saw next were the shots of the tournament—just three shots—strung together neatly by Gerard and JR.

First, Gerard outdrove his rivals with a booming 300-yarder, then JR planted an arrow-straight, 140-yard approach some 17 feet off the cup. Gerard iced the comeback with a sidehill-downhill putt that stopped just inches short of the hole.

With their foes nosediving to missed-green bogeys, the tap-in par by JR all but validated the Cantada-Tanpinco supremacy in Pro-Am play the last two editions of the fabled tournament.

"This is my birthday gift to my sister, who turns 31 today," said a tearful Gerard, referring to Therese, an Asian Games shooter. "I owe JR a lot, for this victory would not have been possible without his nerves of steel."

It was teamwork at its best when it mattered most.

***

Please raise a glass to my *kabaleyan*, Atty. Gonzalo "Gonz" T. Duque.

The straight-talking Gonz will be honored on Feb. 18 as the most outstanding alumnus of San Beda College this year in the field of education.

Gonz, the much-admired president of the Lyceum Northwestern University of Dagupan City, is not only a respected educator, he is also a fearless journalist in Pangasinan, writing a column in the No. 1 community paper in Northern Luzon, the multi-awarded Sunday Punch.

Students from that progressive university speak highly of Gonz's no-nonsense style of leadership in running the affairs of one of the most prestigious learning institutions up North. In fact, if only my *kabaleyan* would take me in as a lecturer in his school, I'd do it—even for a song. His school is just a par-3 away from my land of birth, Mangatarem.

Do you know that Gonz is also a noted sports leader?

He was the founding president of the Metro College Athletic Association of Pangasinan, which is the forerunner of the University and Colleges Athletic Association of Pangasinan. When he was vice governor of Pangasinan, he started the construction of the regional drug rehabilitation center in Burgos town. Unfortunately, the project has yet to be completed by the present leadership of Gov. Agbayani. What's causing the delay, my dear Gov?

As president of the regional Private Schools Athletic Association (Prisaa), Dagupan City emerged overall Prisaa champion last year. Gonz was also a national board member of the YMCA, a position he had handled so well he earned the Gold Vision Award—the highest to be received by a Y'er.

Again, I call on you to raise your glasses because Gonz, dyarannn!, is the lone *probinsyano* honoree in the coming San Beda awards because most of the honorees come from Metro Manila.

If he hasn't stopped breast-beating yet, give it to Gonz, the son of the late Pangasinan governor and Health secretary Francisco Q. Duque Jr. and Florencia Tiongson of Tarlac City. For, in receiving what he considers his most memorable plum ever, Gonz will become only the first Pangasinan Bedan to be bestowed the rare accolade.

Cheers, *kabaleyan!*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Tuesday, February 15, 2005

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National Geographic				Secret China		Raising The Hunley		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		The Seekers		The Sea Hunters	
Solar Sports		Copenhagen Masters MS Final			FIVB World Grand Prix China vs Italy				IBF Korea Open '05			NBA Special: Celtics Dynasty	NBA TV Daily	NBA Game Utah @ Phoenix					NBA Action
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fixx	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert							Back To Basics		
HBO				Animal Behavior (3:55 PM)			Without Warning (5:20 PM)		Striking Distance (6:45 PM)				I Spy (8:25 PM)			Six Feet Under 33: Timing & Space	Ghost Ship (10:45PM)		
Star Movies				Killer Bees (3:55 PM)			Hollywood Wives			All The Pretty Horses				Air Force One				Die Hard	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Static Shock	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Gundam Seed	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Codename: Kids Next Door	Mr. T	Josie And The Pussycats	Boomerang: The Superfriends	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN		English Premier League Highlights 2004/05		Big East Conf.: Pittsburgh vs. Syracuse				Big 12 Conf.: Kansas vs Texas Tech				Sportscenter Taiwan	Pool/Snooker Mosconi Cup '04		Big East Conf.: Pittsburgh vs Syracuse				Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Lilo & Stitch/Untalkative Bunny	Dinosaur Island			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Jumping Ship	
Cinemax		Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure			Green Dragon				Prehysteria			Black Pearl			Ghostbusters (9:45 PM)				Hook
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	I Do But I Don't				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Judging Amy		Just Cause		Cleopatra Part I			Hustle - 3 (10:35PM)		Judging Amy (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Civilizations				Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Science Mysteries	
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Most Wanted		TRL		Handpicked: Drip	MTV Diyes		Cameron & Dave	Room Raiders	High School Stories	I Want A Famous Face	MTV Lokal	Whatever Things	VH1 Video Collections	
Sports Plus				Pac 10 Oregon @ Stanford Reg.					Porsche md 7&8	Italian Serie A highlight Program		Arena Football: Kats vs. Soul						Raceworld	
EWTN	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Mysteries Of The Rosary	My Little Angels	Angel Force	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Fr. Groeschel	Catholic Morality & The Catechism	EWTN Gallery	The Journey Home		Does The Church Still Teach That	Lord, Have Mercy	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	We Are One Body	Web Of Faith	

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Korean trainer for RP cagers

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNKNOWN to many, a Korean coach quietly slipped into the country last month to train the Philippine men's and women's basketball teams.

Kim Sung-hwan arrived on Jan. 23 to conduct a 20-day training for the RP squads preparing for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games here on Nov. 27-Dec. 5.

"He was a great help," Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim said yesterday. "The turnout was good because he was able to show the Korean style of basketball."

According to Lim, the 35-year-old coach focused on quick ball movement and on improving the players' defensive and rebounding skills.

Kim handles the Konkuk University team, which ranks fourth in Korea's collegiate league.

"He emphasized the importance of playing tough defense; that is his trademark," said Filipino-Korean Cultural Foundation Inc. founder and chair Park Hyun-mo, who recommended Kim to BAP.

The BAP is sending the women's team to the South Korean capital, Seoul, for a series of tune-up games with collegiate teams on Oct. 2-12.

Lim is also expected to announce soon its choice as men's coach. The candidates are Dong Vergeire or Boysie Zamar.

PBL Rookie Draft set Feb. 25

PLAYERS wishing to join the Philippine Basketball League Rookie Draft, tentatively set Feb. 25, may now submit their application forms at the PBL offices at the Makati Coliseum.

The Rookie Draft is expected to draw standouts and other rising stars from colleges and universities in and outside Metro Manila.

Commissioner Chino Trinidad said the premier league's Unity Cup tourney kicks off on March 12.

Newly crowned PBL Open titlist Montaña Pawnshop is tipped to crowd defending Unity Cup champion Magnolia Ice Cream for the crown. Magnolia beat Welcoat Paints in the finals last year.

The Jewels ended their long search for a championship by also beating the Welcoat Paint Masters in last month's PBL Open finals.

Also expected to join the tournament are Granny Goose, AMP-Ateneo, Toyota Otis-Letran, Air Philippines, ICTSI-La Salle.

Korean teenager one up on Bernis

PDI PHOTO

KIM: Four early birdies

LIPA CITY—South Korean teener Kim Chang-hoi gunned down four birdies in the front nine en route to a three-under-par 69 yesterday and grabbed the lead after the second round of the Samsung Amateur Tour national grand finals at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club course here.

The 18-year-old Kim, playing out of Royal Northwoods in Bulacan, birdied the second, third, sixth and seventh holes all from inside four feet to offset a three-putt bogey on the par-5 15th in a solid effort against the members of the local national training pool.

Kim, who topped the Southwoods eliminations, completed two trips over the windswept course at 141, counting his even par 72 on Sunday.

He leads by one over reigning national amateur champ Jun Bernis, who fired a 70 for 142.

Also Sunday, Lina de Guzman rallied from as many as six shots down to upset Jayvie Agojo in ladies Class A of the tournament also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, Gatorade, adidas TaylorMade, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport, and Rogin-E with Philippine Airlines as the official carrier and Malarayat Inn as the official hotel. Killer-Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

Jay Bayron, a co-leader in the first round, struggled with a 73 and dropped to solo third with a 144 aggregate.

Boyet Saragoza, who shared the lead with Bayron, soared to a 77 and fell seven shots off the pace at 148.

Raymund Sangil, winner of the opening leg at Sta. Elena, struggled to a 78 and stood 12 off the lead at 153.

Meanwhile, action in the four handicap divisions of the men's category fires off today with half of the field going for the Class A, B, C and D titles.

"I played better today and my front nine was fantastic," said Kim. "The winds blew hard later in the round but I tried my best to avoid making bogeys."

Bancod captures Filway crown

INTERNATIONAL Master Ronald Bancod stunned top seed Grandmaster Rogelio 'Joey" Antonio Jr. in the 11th and final round Sunday night to rule the Filway-Time Life Open active chess tournament at the Starmall Shopping Complex in Mandaluyong City.

Bancod, the reigning Misamis Occidental Open champion, finished with 9.5 points, the same output of 2004 National Open titlist Darwin Laylo, who downed fellow national master Rolando Nolte in the last round.

Bancod, however, took the title with better tiebreak points, 82.5-79.5. They split the combined P45,000 prize for the top two placers.

Handling black, Bancod caught Antonio in deep time trouble in their bishop and rook endgame. Bancod was a pawn up and had an unstoppable pawn in the a-file when Antonio's time ran out.

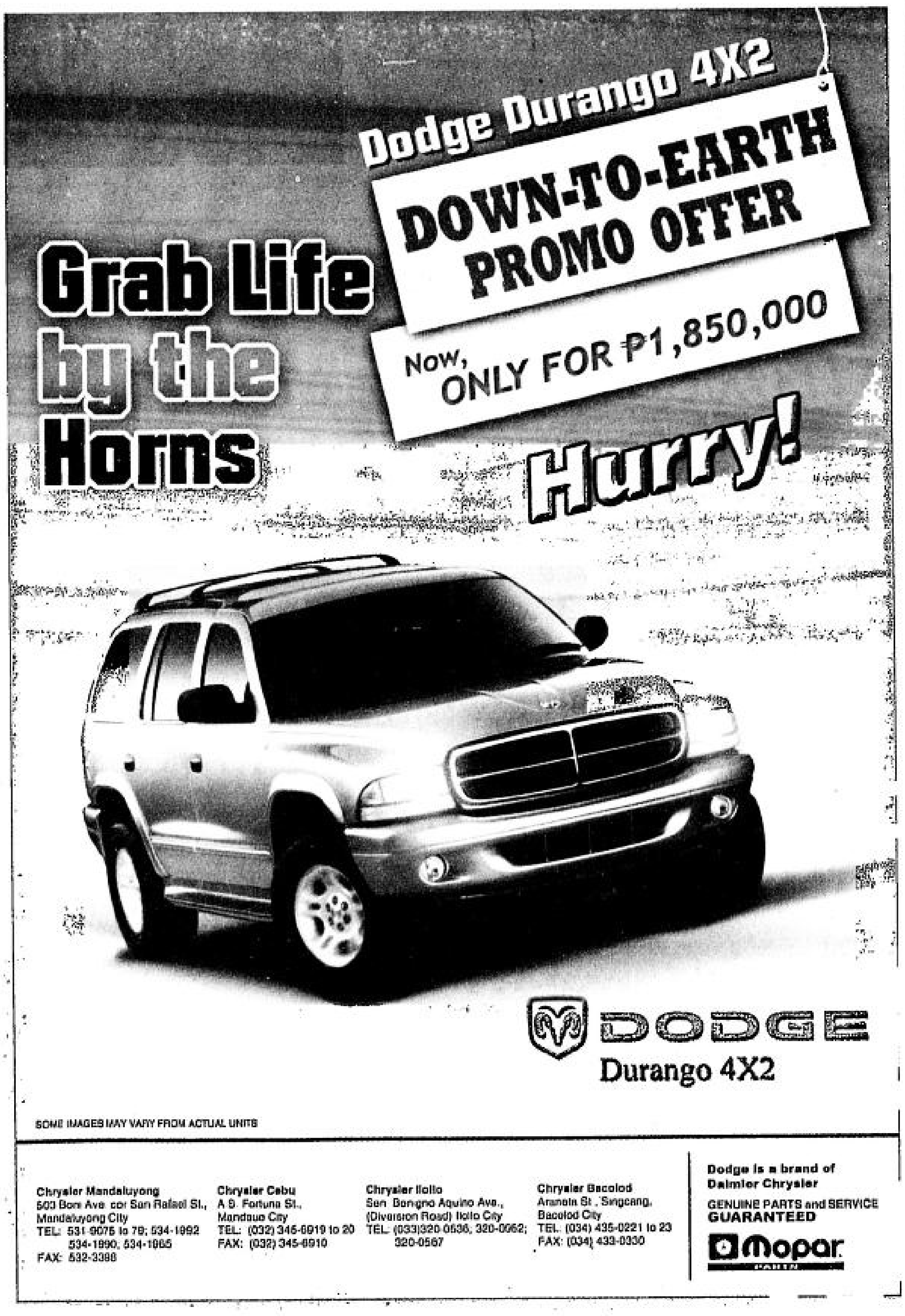
IM Idelfonso Datu and Fide Master Oliver Dimakiling shared third place with 9.0 points each.

Datu beat Majorca Olympian Jayson Gonzales in 55 moves of a Queen's Gambit declined while Dimakiling upset IM Mark Paragua in a Scotch Defense.

Sharing fifth place with 8.5 points each were IM Petronio Roca, Allan Macala, GM Nelson Mariano II and NM Jerry Nodado.

Paragua, the country's top-rated player, consoled himself with the junior title.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor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AFC captures all-star game; Manning MVP

HONOLULU—Peyton Manning was still at the peak of his game in the Pro Bowl, and Michael Vick showed he's only beginning the climb.

Manning threw three touchdown passes to extend his career record in the NFL's all-star game, while Vick led the NFC to 17 points in a second-half comeback that fell short in the AFC's 38-27 victory Sunday.

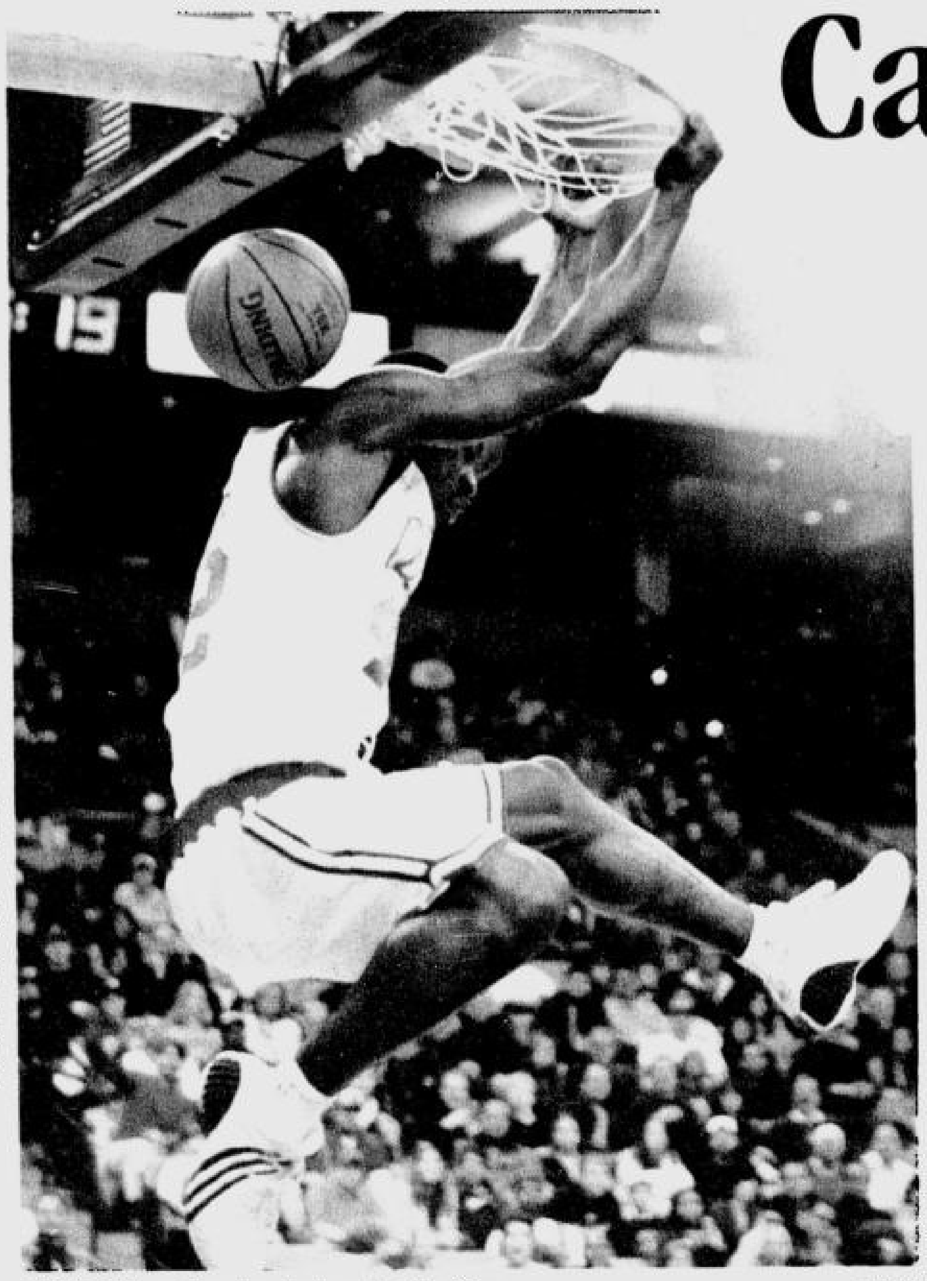
Pittsburgh's Hines Ward caught a touchdown pass and returned an onside kick for a score, and three Chargers stars led the clinching TD drive in the fourth quarter of the AFC's seventh victory in nine meetings.

Manning, the regular-season MVP after breaking Dan Marino's NFL record with 49 touchdown passes, completed just six passes for 130 yards. But three were spectacular scoring tosses, and the Colts quarterback was named the MVP in his fifth trip to the Pro Bowl.

The game didn't quite have the offensive fireworks of last season's 107-point marathon, but Manning and Vick thrilled the 26th straight sellout crowd at Aloha Stadium with exhibitions of their strengths: Manning's expert throws and Vick's jaw-dropping elusiveness and creativity.

"I'm not going to say I wasn't holding my breath over there once Vick started to roll around, but our defense did a great job of stopping him," Manning said. "It was good we got the game this year after we let the lead slip away last year."

Manning has thrown 11 TD passes in the Pro Bowl, four more than any quarterback in NFL history. He hit Colts teammate Marvin Harrison, Ward and San Diego's Antonio Gates in the first 25 minutes while the AFC built a 28-10 halftime lead. *AP*



CELTICS' Tony Allen slam dunks against the Kings. REUTERS

Cavaliers

CLEVELAND—LeBron James scored 21 of his 25 points in the second half, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 30 points to spoil Kobe Bryant's return to the Los Angeles lineup, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 103-89 victory over the Lakers on Sunday.

James added nine assists and eight rebounds for the Cavs, who avenged a Jan. 13 loss in Los Angeles when the Lakers won despite losing Bryant early in the first half because of a severely sprained right ankle.

Bryant, who until a few days ago wasn't expected to be back until after the All-Star break, had 26 points on 7-
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SALT LAKE CITY—As much as Karl Malone wanted to win an NBA title, he just didn't have the desire to play a 20th season.

Malone officially announced his retirement Sunday, ending his career where it started when the Utah Jazz selected him with the 13th pick in the 1985 draft.

"Even though I left for a year, I grew here as a Jazz man," Malone said at a news conference at the Delta Center. "If I'm fortunate enough to go into the Hall of Fame, I will go as a Jazz man."

The 41-year-old finishes second on the NBA's career scoring list with 36,928 points, just 1,459 behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Malone met with the San Antonio Spurs last week and was considering a re-
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Ronaldo throws Valentine's Day bash for fiancee

PARIS—Some people are content to just say it with flowers. Not Brazilian striker Ronaldo.

The Real Madrid star and his fiancee Daniella Cicarelli were celebrating their love with a romantic Valentine's Day bash in a castle north of Paris on Monday—with a who's who of soccer giants invited to join them.

Up to 250 guests were expected at the celebration for Ronaldo and Cicarelli's planned marriage later this year, including Zinedine Zidane, Raul, David Beckham and seven-time Formula One champion Michael Schumacher.

Spanish law prohibits Ronaldo from remarrying within a year of his divorce to Milene Domingues. But the 28-year-old three-time Fifa Player of the Year and the 23-year-old model weren't letting that dampen their party.

"Ronaldo and Daniella wanted to do something special on Valentine's Day," Ronaldo's press attache David Espinar said. "They will consider it as their wedding day."

Montecristo cigars, sporting an extra band with a red heart and embossed "R" and "D" initials, awaited guests who were being driven to Chantilly castle just north of Paris.

The cost of the affair, details of attire, menu and complete guest list were not immediately known.

France's horse racing capital, Chantilly features a track and stables of expensive steeds, including those owned by Agha Khan, head of the world's Ismaeli Muslims.

The fairytale-like chateau is surrounded by water and magnificent 17th-century gardens designed by Andre Le Notre, who laid out Versailles. *AP*

Safina gets 1st crown

PARIS—More commonly known as the little sister of two-time Grand Slam winner Marat Safin, Russian teenager Dinara Safina came of age Sunday when she lifted her first major title at the expense of world number four Amelie Mauresmo at the $585,000 Paris Indoor Open.

The 18-year-old Safina was playing in just her fourth final after previously winning lower tier events in Sopot in 2002 and Palermo in 2003, and being runner-up in Luxembourg in 2004.

But the 48th-ranked player's 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 disposal of second seed Amelie Mauresmo of France in 2 hours and 20 minutes in front of her home crowd confirmed the growing mental strength which indicates things to come.

"I've started to be strong in my mind. I feel better the last few months," explained the Muscovite, who reached a career-high 29th last April before being sidelined with back and knee injuries.

Like her former world number one brother, who lifted his first Australian title after losing in two finals over the last three years, Safina puts her improvement, in part, down to her new Swedish coach Lars Wahlgren whom she teamed up with two weeks ago.

"He's a Swede and knows my brother's coach, I wasn't beginning to enjoy it. He started to say 'come on, have fun!' He's opened my eyes a little bit." Growing up is also travelling without her mum who coached her in the past.

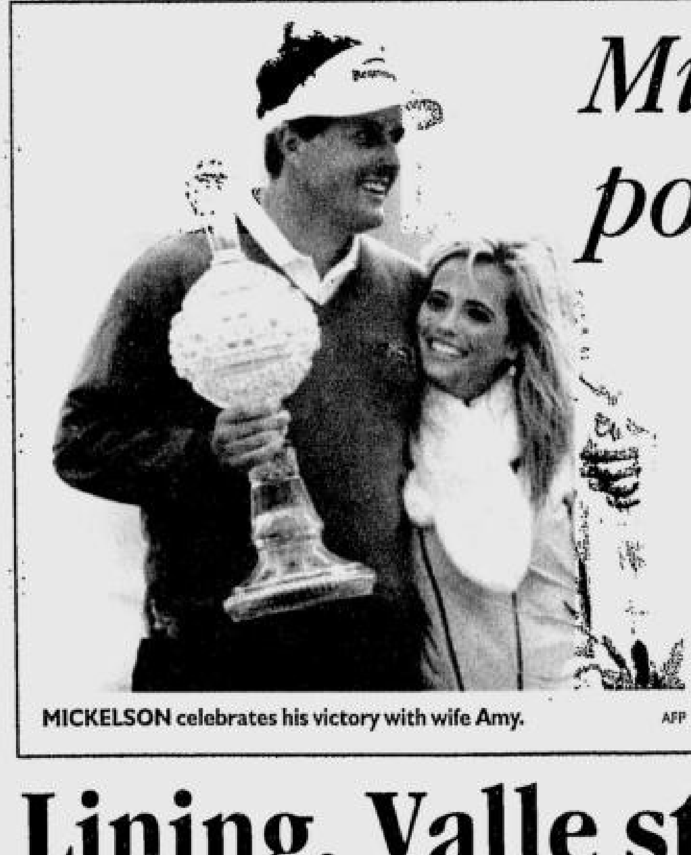
"It's not that I don't want her with me. We get on good," explained Safina, whose first call courtside after her victory at the Pierre de Coubertin stadium was for her mother back home in Moscow.

"I've been getting a bit older. I was travelling with my mother and she was taking care of certain things. Maybe it helps to be a bit stronger in my head to travel on my own." That mental strength helped her avenge her 2-6, 6-1, 6-0 defeat to Mauresmo in their previous meeting in the Australian Open second round last month.

"In Melbourne the conditions were different. It was so hot, I was dying in the second set," she said, adding that a ticking off from big brother also helped. *AFP*

SAFINA reacts after a good shot over Mauresmo. AP

Mickelson playing like No. 1, posts 4-stroke win at Pebbles



MICKELSON celebrates his victory with wife Amy. AFP

TORONTO—When the 2005 golf season began, all the talk centered on the 'Big Three'; Vijay Singh, Tiger Woods and Ernie Els.

But all the chatter of the last two weeks has been about the next man in line—Phil Mickelson.

While Mickelson is ranked fourth in the world, 'Lefty' has been playing like number one, claiming back-to-back PGA Tour titles for the first time in his 12-year career with a four-stroke victory over Canada's Mike Weir at the Pebble Beach National Pro Am on Sunday.

The victories have put Mickelson on top of the money list with more than $2 million, boosting his career earnings to more than $31 million. Only Woods and Singh have made more.

But even more impressive have been the record-breaking numbers the US Masters champion has put on the leaderboard over the last two weeks.

Fresh from a five-stroke victory at last week's Phoenix Open, which included a course record-equaling round of 60, Mickelson carried over his blistering form to California's Monterey Peninsula.

The 34-year-old American sounded a warning when he opened with a record 10-under 62, then followed with a 67 to set a tournament 36-hole record.

Mickelson continued to set the pace on Saturday, firing another 67 to add the 54-hole mark to a record-shattering week.

"It feels terrific to follow up last week's performance with another very good performance," said Mickelson, after registering his 25th career victory and his second at Pebble Beach.

"Sometimes when you play really well and you get it going, it falls away the next week. It's nice to come back and open with a round of 62. It feels great.

"Once I shot a 62 I thought it was a real challenge to back it up with other good rounds."

Following some controversial equipment changes late last year and a less-than-impressive start to the new campaign at the Buick Invitational, Mickelson's place among the top players was being debated.

But after two blistering weeks the talk now is whether Mickelson is embarking on the type of dream season Singh had last year when he won nine titles, more than $10 million and claimed the number one ranking from Woods. *Reuters*

Lining, Valle stretch All-Filipino victory run

TOP SEED Antonio "Nickoy" Lining and Gandi "Sapsal" Valle continued their winning ways in the Hope P1 Million All-Filipino Billiard Open qualifying phase at the Bowling Inn and Billiards Center yesterday.

Lining, the former All Japan Open champion from Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, whipped Jose Drilon, 7-3, while Valle, an Asian Games gold medalist from Davao City, downed Bislig, Surigao Del Sur's Dennis Orcollo, 7-5.

Lining and Valle moved within two wins of barging into the last 16 set to start on Feb. 21 at the IBC-13 Studio.

Lining and Valle defeated Allan Soliman and Cresencio Baliton by similar 7-3 scores in the opener. Drilon took a bye in the first round while Orcollo edged Jun Salazar, 7-6.

"I'm playing well. I hope this will continue up to the finals," said Lining, who tied for third with compatriot Ramil "Bebeng" Gallego in the Filipino-dominated 2005 All Kansai Japan Open where Warren Kiamco and Orcollo bagged the top two spots.

Gallego and last year's Fil-9 Open ruler Antonio "Ga-Ga" Gabica of Cebu also remain unscathed in the three-day qualifier.

Gallego nipped Jolito Guevarra, 7-5, while Gabica outplayed Filemon De Leon, 7-3.

The other undefeated players are Jeffrey De Luna, Roberto Gomez, Victor Arpilleda, Boy Ducanes, Luis Saberdo, Roberto Dy and Carlo Viado.

Also in the hunt for a slot in the last 16 are Vinancio "Tukao" Tanio, Allan Cuartero, Ramon "Maetro" Mystika and 15-year-old Mark " Macmac" Mendoza, who hurdled their respective assignments in the losers' bracket.

Tanio, conqueror of former world champion Mika Immonen in On Cue-2, beat Daniel dela Rosa, 7-3; Cuartero trounced Drilon, 7-3; Mystka whipped Jun Briones, 7-5; and Mendoza blanked Eduardo Reyes, 7-0.

The tournament is sponsored by Hope and Smart and organized by Puyat Sports boss Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and Jemah Television president Mark Roces. Tournament director is Rolly Vicente.

The eight seeded players in the last 16 are Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, reigning World Pool champion Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan, Kiamco, Marlon "Marvelous" Manalo, Lee Vann Corteza, Rodolfo " Boy Samson" Luat and Leonardo "Dodong Dadiangas" Andam.

The final 16 matches will be aired from 8-10:30 p.m. on IBC-13.

The champion in the final 16 will be receiving a slot in the SMB Asian 9-ball tour aside from the top purse of P500,000. *Marlon Bernardino*

LINING: Eyeing the finals. PDI PHOTO

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spoil Bryant's return

ng in 41 minutes. He d since rolling his right tepping on Cave forward foot last month.

om added 19 points and ls for Los Angeles.

polis, Ben Gordon had 21 ght rebounds in a reserve Chicago spoiled Kevin st game as Minnesota's

rewell scored 26 points erwolves, who have lost e games. Kevin Garnett s and 14 rebounds.

linnesota's vice president operations, took over the team Saturday after firing longtime friend Flip Saunders.

In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 13 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, including a jumper with 25.1 seconds left, and Miami beat San Antonio for the first time in more than three years.

Wade hit five of his final seven shots, and added six assists and five rebounds to help Miami extend its winning streak to six games.

Shaquille O'Neal added 27 points and seven rebounds. Manu Ginobili had 24 points for San Antonio, which shot 39.2 percent from the field.

In New York, Tim Thomas got a lucky bounce on a 3-pointer from the corner as the final buzzer sounded, lifting New York past Charlotte.

Thomas' shot was short, hit the iron and bounced 4 feet above the rim before caroming off the top of the backboard and dropping through to give New York just its fourth victory in its past 22 games.

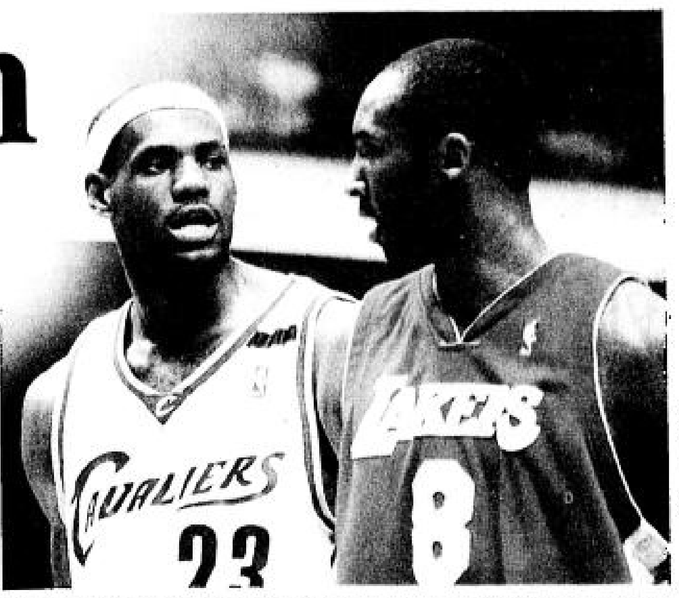
Jamal Crawford led New York with 23 points, and Stephon Marbury added 16. Jason Hart made 17 for the Bobcats.

In Boston, Chris Webber had a triple-double by the third quarter, and Mike Bibby took over from there, scoring 14 of his 27 points in the fourth for Sacramento.

Webber had 14 points, 17 rebounds and 12 assists to help the Kings snap a four-game losing streak. He reached double figures in all three categories with 90 seconds left in the third for his fourth triple-double of the season and the 21st of his career.

Raef LaFrentz scored 25 points for the Celtics.

COMPLETE RESULTS: Miami 96, San Antonio 92; Cleveland 103, LA Lakers 89; Chicago 87, Minnesota 83; Sacramento 104, Boston 100; Indiana 76, Memphis 73; New Jersey 94, Denver 79; NY Knicks 102, Charlotte 99; Orlando 97, New Orleans 94; Toronto 109, LA Clippers 106; Dallas 95, Seattle 92; Houston 81, Portland 80; Phoenix 106, Golden State 102. (ot)



JAMES (23) and Bryant eye each other after Bryant elbowed James in the face during the fourth quarter. REUTERS

ds Jazz delivery

ing for one more chance at a ship ring, but he decided that ne couldn't play at the level that n one of the best ever in the

had knee surgery last summer ne was fully recovered from the t forced him to miss half of last ut his mind wasn't up to returnketball.

I got on that plane, I knew I was it it was time," Malone said. "I isketball as 100 percent physi- 100 percent mentally. And if I g you 200 percent, from me, I g you anything."

said he wanted to keep from o emotional, and he succeeded hen recalling Utah's glory days of the 1990s. Sitting on platform with his wife, Kay, Jazz owner Larry Miller and coach Jerry Sloan, Malone thanked the Jazz for picking him after 12 teams had passed.

An avid outdoorsman, Malone sported a cowboy hat and T-shirt. He still looked to be in great shape, showing that he hasn't let up on the relentless workouts that allowed him to play into his 40s.

The news conference was packed with reporters, some fans and a few former teammates who came to say goodbye to the certain Hall of Famer.

Malone was the league's MVP in 1997 and '99. One of the most durable players ever, Malone is also second only to Abdul-Jabbar's 57,446 minutes played with 54,852. *AP*

MALONE announces retirement. AP

Andy keeps San Jose title

SAN JOSE, California—World number three Andy Roddick successfully defended his San Jose Open title by destroying unseeded Frenchman Cyril Saulnier, 6-0 6-4, in the final on Sunday.

The top-seeded American never faced a break point as he controlled the match with his mighty serving, huge forehand and aggressive returns.

"I was feeling really good on everything," Roddick told reporters. "It was one of those days that happen maybe five percent a year, where you play really good tennis."

Roddick broke Saulnier in the opening game and never looked back.

The Frenchman raised his game in the second set without managing to get a grip of his opponent's serve.

Roddick broke to lead 2-1 when Saulnier missed an easy forehand pass and he won the final game to love by ripping a winner down the line.

"He didn't give me any chances to come into the match," Saulnier said. "He just played much better. He didn't give me any points." Roddick had 23 winners, nine of which were aces, and made only eight unforced errors as he claimed his first title since he won in Indianapolis last July.

The 22-year-old Roddick has a 10-1 record this year, his only defeat coming against Lleyton Hewitt in the semifinals of the Australian Open.

"There was a perception I was totally off track," Roddick said. "I didn't feel that way, I guess I was one of the few.

"But it's a great stepping stone. I lose here and I'd have to answer a lot of nonsense. It's a great springboard." Roddick is the first back-to-back winner here since Australian Mark Philippoussis in 1999-2000. *Reuters*

UP fencers clinch fifth UAAP plum

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines clinched its fifth straight women's crown while Far Eastern University crashed into the title column by topping the men's contest in UAAP Season 67 fencing competitions held over the weekend at the Blue Eagle gym.

Ma. Margarita Gamallo topped the epee and Dinah Remolacio dominated the foil in powering the Lady Maroons to the overall title, bagging it with a haul of three gold and as many silver medals. UP won the first three titles when fencing was still an exhibition sport in the league, and went unbeaten after that.

FEU, on the other hand, poured much of its might Saturday and virtually coasted Sunday to snatch its first UAAP fencing title, dethroning the heavily favored UE team by clinching more silver medals in the process.

The Tamaraws earned two gold medals courtesy of Avelino Victorino in epee and also bagged two silvers and two bronze medals. UE clinched two golds, but did not win any silver and brought home two bronze medals.

Rounding out the order of finish in women's fencing were Ateneo second with 1-2-3 gold-silver-bronze, UE third with 1-0-2, UST fourth with 1-0-1, FEU fifth with 0-1-0 and De La Salle sixth with 0-0-0.

Lam-Am begins Southern Ladies

THE TRADITIONAL Lam-Am golf tournament featuring the country's top lady amateurs and their male guest partners will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) to officially kick off the Southern Ladies Open slated Feb. 17-19 at the Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club in Cagayan de Oro City.

The one-day side event, organized and conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) in cooperation with Pueblo de Oro GCC Ladies Chapter, also serves as the practice round for the crack field headed by current amateur sensation Jayvie Agojo.

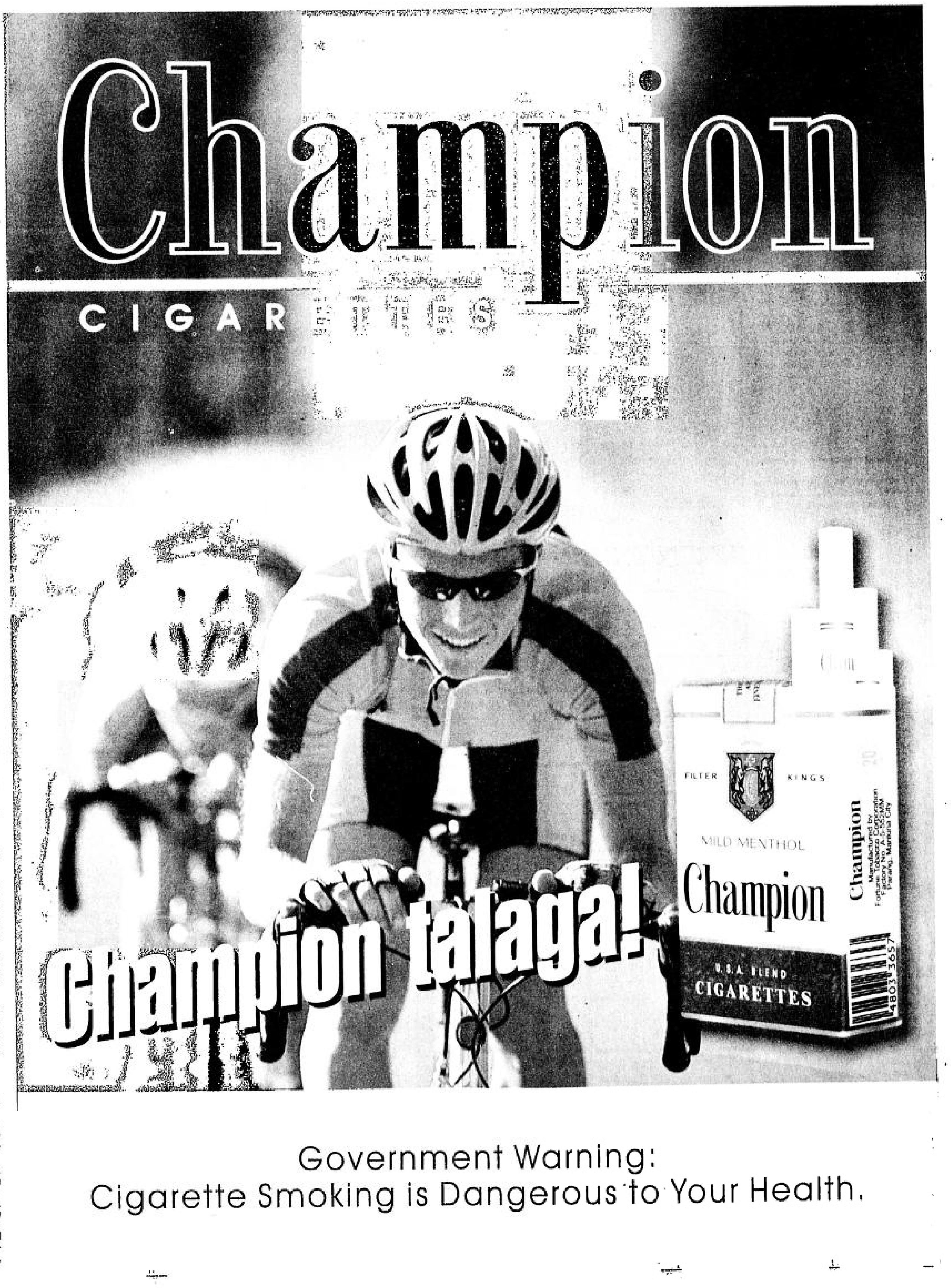
Although the 18-year-old reigning RP Ladies Open champion and veteran of the World Amateurs will be coming into the event reeling from a stunning setback to Cangolf's Lina de Guzman in the Samsung Amateur Tour grand finals at Mt. Malarayat over the weekend, Agojo remains the solid favorite to run away with the crown in the 42nd staging of the event.

Pueblo Oro officials Weng Roa, Boy Ramos, Dennis Mendoza, Ronnie Rodriguez and NGAP director for Mindanao Anthony Sasin are some of the players confirmed to play in the Lam-Am with the ceremonial tee-off to be held right after the tournament.

RACING

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

ace 1--1. Andrei's Billard 2. Magiliw 3. Witch Craft 2. Pasirit
ace 2--1. Semprer Spirit 2. Cat's Jewel/Wind Runner 3. Commodore Tiger 4. Yokozuna
ace 3--1. Skip Away 2. Born Perfect 3. Hit the Wire 4. Yonder Girl 5. Precious Moment
ace 4--1. Wind Storm 2. Vivere 3. Sunline 4. Harrod's Magic
Race 5--1. Queen Matawe 2. Legally Blonde 3. Dynasty 4. Ohayo Gozaimas 5. Holy King
Race 6--1. Pirouette/Honoree 2. Naughty/Sir Pierre 3. Ole Ole Ole 4. Mas Que Nada
Race 7--1. Tenacity 2. Stingray 3. Words of Joy 4. Snow Princess 5. Open Sky
Race 8--1. Rebound 2. Angel Eyes 3. Caballero 4. Ancestral Home 5. Lumiere 6. Seven Lakes



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Ex-NBA official holds free seminars for refs

FORMER National Basketball Association (NBA) official Jesse Thompson will conduct free introductory seminars on officiating this Friday at Conference B of the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall.

International Basketball Academy (IBA) chair Ardy Abello yesterday said two sessions, set from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., will provide a sneak preview of what's in store in the School of Advanced Officiating and Refereeing, a three-month course to be handled by Thompson himself in April.

"We are inviting veteran referees from organizations like the Barecom, Nabro and those beginners who want to embark on a career on officiating," said Abello.

Thompson, a member of the International Association of Authorized Basketball Officials and head trainer of the Korean Basketball League referees for eight years, believes in the Filipinos' advantage in officiating.

"Filipinos speak English better than other Asian counterparts, and you need that in refereeing," said Thompson.

Also under the IBA umbrella is the Coach E Basketball School founded by Coca-Cola interim coach Eric Altamirano. The Coach E School, now known as "e-basketball," has been integrated with a coaches' course and an age-group tournament to be launched soon.

For booking of slots, call the IBA at 6311195, 09217562639 (look for Marissa) or e-mail iba_phil@yahoo.com.

NCA 7-cock battles today

COCKFIGHTING at its best resumes today when the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Cock Derby series kicks off at 5 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. The derby is expected to draw a banner crowd, according to hosts Rudy Albano, Alex and Gerry Escalona, Patrick Puno and Mayor Nic Patenia who also have invited several guest participants to make the event more interesting. Sixty or so fights are lined up in today's 3-cock elimination round, with the championship set on Thursday. Meanwhile, NCA secretary general Jun Santiago reminded NCA members and interested cockers-breeders to present their cockerels for screening and wingbanding anytime from March 1 to 31. Only gamebirds with NCA wingbands will be allowed to join in the upcoming NCA stag derbies in September. "Cockers and breeders who join NCA stag derbies are already assured of maximum exposure. We always make it a point to mention their names during the actual derby," said Santiago. For inquiries, call 911-3101 or 9112928 and look for Dong Lamuste or Gloria Avena.

Fastest Kill Challenge set

MORE than 200 entries will vie for a total guaranteed cash prize of P500,000 in the Super One-Cock Ulutan Fastest Kill Challenge on March 1 at the Pasig Square Garden. Entry fee is P2,200. Kags Paliza, Aba Badiola and well-known Rizal cocker Sam Mendoza are the event's hosts. The fastest kill winner will get P120,000; second, P60,000, and third, P40,000. Badiola said prizes are also at stake for the fourth to 30th placers. The first 20 winners will get one mountain bike each and the first 20 losers, one sack of rice each. The last 10 winners will also get a bike each. The event will start at 7 a.m. A six-digit display timer will be used. For reservation of cockhouses, call the PSG office at 6465858 or 0921-5191962 (Aba) or 0918-9251121 (Kags).

Davao derby stakes P8M

FRESH off its successful sponsorship of the 38th Candelaria 7-Cock Derby, the biggest annual cockfighting event in the Visayas, Thunderbird Power Feeds will now throw its support to Mindanao's most prestigious cockfest—the 2005 annual "Araw ng Dabaw" derby. The event, dubbed as the "Payanig sa Davao" 7-Cock Derby, is slated March 8-20. Promoters Bebot Uy, Dori Du, Pepe Tan, Sammy Uy, Jun Villar and Arthur Uy said a guaranteed cash prize of P8 million, including the champion's purse of P6 million, is at stake. The entry fee is P33,000. Seven 2-cock preliminaries will be held on March 8-9 at the Casino Filipino-Davao; March 11-12 at the New Davao Matina Gallera and March 14-16 at the Davao Aquino Coliseum. The 2-cock semifinals is set March 18 at the Matina Gallera, anchored by the 3-cock finals on the 20th also at Matina.

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3 SOON TO OPEN
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3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 DREAMBOY
5 (DOLBY) FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
6 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

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4 GOLD (DTS) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 GOLD (DOLBY) PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
6 GOLD (SDDS) FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
7 GOLD (DOLBY) DREAMBOY
8 [illegible] LET THE LOVE BEGIN
9 [illegible] ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
10 [illegible] ALFIE

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3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 ASSAULT ON PRFCINT 13
5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

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2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
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2 DREAMBOY
3 (DTS) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
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3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
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ALFIE
2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00
DREAM BOY
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
ELEKTRA
12:25 / 2:40 / 4:55 / 7:10 / 9:25
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30
LET THE LOVE BEGIN
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
MEET THE FOCKERS
12:00 / 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
12:25 / 3:20 / 6:15 / 9:10
SHALL WE DANCE
12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
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① LET THE LOVE BEGIN
11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:10
② DREAM BOY
11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:10
③ PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
11:35 / 2:30 / 5:25 / 8:30
④ ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
⑤ FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35
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Davao eleven rips SC, gains finals

DAVAO City dealt South Cotabato a 5-0 hammering over the weekend to rule the Eastern-Central-Southern qualifying round in Mindanao and earn a slot in the 2005 PFF-adidas National Men's Championship slated next month in Cagayan de Oro City.

An impressive hat trick by Allan Ray Fernandez in the 2nd, 28th and 56th minutes plus a goal each from Gerald Maldo (19th minute) and Andy Estimo (64th) gave the Davaoeños the victory in the clash in Surigao.

Teams from all over the country are vying for eight slots in the Cagayan de Oro finals.

Aside from Davao City, the other qualifiers so far are Negros Occidental and Iloilo as well as host Cagayan de Oro.

Elsewhere, Alfredo Lamban, Harod Dumata and Clarence Lucilla scored a goal each as Pagadian downed Ozamiz, 3-1, Sunday in the Western Mindanao qualifying.

Man Frazer booted in Ozamiz's lone goal in the 66th minute.

Dipolog won a 3-2 thriller over Iligan on goals by Lear Jumaras (3rd and 48th minutes) and Jovannie Villagracia (66th).

Heinz Manreza scored on a penalty in the 20th and Marvin Avenido hit the back of the net in the 77th minute for Iligan.

The PFF-adidas tournament is also backed by PFF sponsor-partners Petron, SuperFerry and Red Ribbon Bakeshop.

Pacquiao brod eyes 'Pac' title

PHILIPPINE junior lightweight champion Bobby Pacquiao leaves today for Thailand to challenge International Boxing Federation Pan Pacific featherweight titlist Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym on Feb. 18 in Pattaya.

The younger brother of Ring Magazine featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao and his retinue of six take a PAL flight at 10:30 a.m. for Bangkok before proceeding to Pattaya.

Accompanying Pacquiao for his biggest fight to date are handlers Rod Nazario, Lito Mondejar, Moy Lainez, trainer Nonoy Neri, as well as Gerry Garcia and matchmaker Aljo Jaro.

Pacquiao was two pounds over the 126-lb featherweight limit on the eve of his departure.

To prepare for the fight, Pacquiao sparred against Renato Inal, Alvin Clerino, who lost to Rakkiatgym last Dec. 15.

Pacquiao is on a five-bout win streak since his TKO loss at the hands of Baby Lorona Jr.

Rakkiatgym was himself knocked out by Manny Pacquiao in the first round of their 2002 bout in Davao City but is unbeaten in 11 fights since then.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

SeeMall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

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	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1	THX THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	LET THE LOVE BEGIN	LET THE LOVE BEGIN	GUARANTEED SEATS THX THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 3 00, 5 50, 8 40, 11 30	DREAMBOY
2	LET THE LOVE BEGIN	FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX	THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	GUARANTEED SEATS THX A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT 2 15	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3	DREAMBOY	ELEKTRA	GUARANTEED SEATS THX SHALL WE DANCE 1 30, 3 30	GUARANTEED SEATS DREAMBOY 1 55, 4 15, 6 35, 8 55, 11 15	A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
4	SHALL WE DANCE	DREAMBOY	ALFIE	GUARANTEED SEATS LET THE LOVE BEGIN 1 20, 3 50, 6 20, 8 50, 11 20	MADHOUSE
5	FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX		DREAMBOY	GUARANTEED SEATS FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 2 10, 4 10, [illegible]	
6			MEET THE FOCKERS		
7			FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX		

GB1 GREENBELT 1	
1	LET THE LOVE BEGIN 11 40, 2 10, 4 40, 7 10, 9 40
2	DREAMBOY 12 20, 2 40, 5 00, 7 20, 9 40

At the Activity Center

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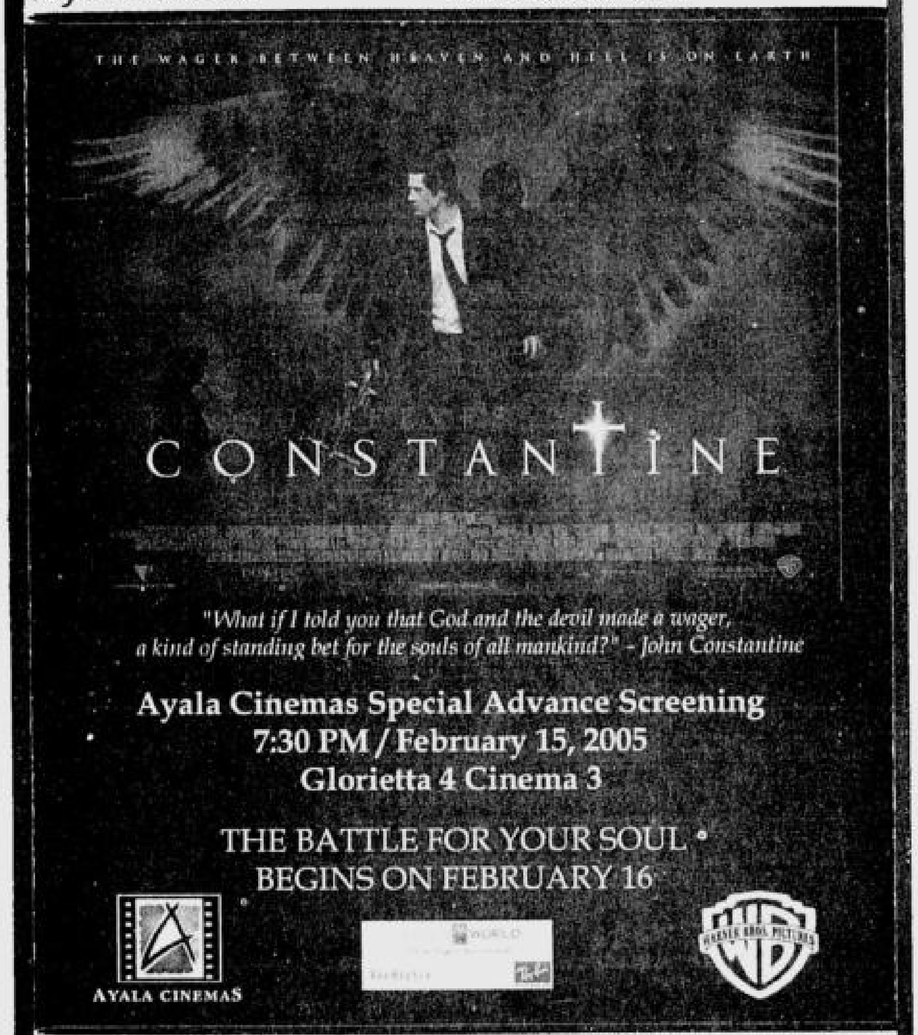

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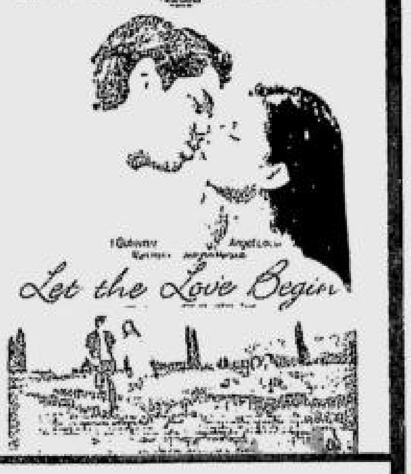

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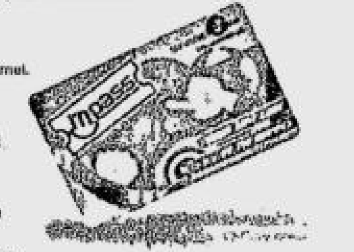

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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA • THX
1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 ALFIE
10:50 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00
5 DREAMBOY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
6 SHALL WE DANCE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
7 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40
8 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
9 MEET THE FOCKERS
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00
10 ELEKTRA
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 10:15 12:30 2.50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
10:20 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
4 SHALL WE DANCE
10:30 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
5 ALFIE 10:15 12:30 2:50 5:10
MEET THE FOCKERS 7:30 9:50
6 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
10:10 1:05 4:00 6:55 9:50
7 DREAMBOY
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 SHALL WE DANCE
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
12:05 2:15 4:20 6:35 9:00
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00
4 ELEKTRA
10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
5 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
10:25 1:25 4:25 7:25 10:30
6 DREAMBOY
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:15
7 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:30
8 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
11.45 2.30 5:15 8.00 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
11:20 2:20 5:20 8:25
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:00
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
4 WITHOUT A PADDLE
11:00 1.00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
5 DREAMBOY
10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
6 ELEKTRA
12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30
7 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
8 SHALL WE DANCE
11.00 1:00 3.00

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1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 DREAMBOY

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 HELLWOLF
2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

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2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 DREAMBOY

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2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 SHALL WE DANCE
4 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
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2 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
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The making of a Global star

By Isagani Yambot
Publisher

DAVOS, Switzerland—What does it take to be a global star? How does a local star in the movie and sports industries make the crossover to global star? How do you define success?

These were among the questions recently asked in a panel discussion at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum here.

Anant Singh, film producer of Videovision of South Africa, talking about celebrities who make the coveted transition, said, "Ultimately, it's about talent." The talented artist is bound to be discovered and gain the recognition of producers, directors and the international audience, he said.

Singh talked about the crossover from local star to global star of South African actress Charlize Theron. He also discussed a similar transition for Asian actors Jackie Chan and Jet Li, both of whom, he said, were "major stars for 25 years" in their countries before they became the global stars that they are now.

Theron, a native of Benoni, South Africa, got her first screen role in a B-film in 1995. It was only after she won the Best Actress Oscar for her role as Aileen Wuornos in "Monster" (for which she had to gain 30 pounds) that she made the world sit up and really look at her, although earlier she starred in "Legend of Bagger Vance" with Matt Damon, "The Devil's Advocate" with Keanu Reeves, and "The Italian Job" with Mark Wahlberg.

Sports figures, too

Chan was a star in his native Hong Kong and in Asia but scored internationally only on his second attempt to break into Hollywood with the 1995 film, "Rumble in the Bronx." His 1999 comedy opposite Chris Tucker, "Rush Hour," was a critical and commercial success. He won American audiences over with his charm and amazing stunts.

Li made 25 successful Asian films before coming to the United States. He went on to star in the highly acclaimed "Romeo Must Die," a film that blended hip-hop with martial arts.

Later, Li went back to his movie roots in China to work with renowned director Zhang Yi Mou on "Hero," a film that has achieved significant critical acclaim and international distinction.

Singh said similar paths are taken by celebrities in other sectors, whether they be charismatic sports or political figures or talented artists.

"We in South Africa have our own star," said Singh. " Nelson Mandela was in prison 14 years ago and he is the epitome of the local star become global, and [one] with moral authority."

(Mandela personifies struggle. He led, and is still leading, the fight against apartheid with great vigor after spending nearly 30 years of his life behind bars. He sacrificed his private life and his youth for his people, and is South Africa's best known and loved hero.)

Sanford Climan, president of Entertainment Media Ventures of the United States, went beyond the three questions asked at the beginning of the discussion. He said he wondered what it meant to be a star.

No single path

"The temptation is to seek out a scientific explanation for stardom," he said. But he added that there appeared to be no single path, and that the route might be rewarded far more for entrepreneurial skills than for sheer talent or ability.

"Many artists become great but go no further, but some manage to reach the top and then use their celebrity and skills for other purposes," Climan said.

David J. Stern, commissioner of the National Basketball Association of the United States, said nearly all sports stars were identified early.

He said the NBA had a system which had become a kind of star search, "so there are no surprises." He added: "Talent is confronted with the pressures early."

The result, Stern said, is that "very young boys" perform—and become celebrities, or they fade away.

"We manufacture celebrity because it's profitable," Stern said. "The forces of profit are really what are spurring the search for talent."

He cited Yao Ming as one example of what celebrity can do. Now, he said, the entire world is rushing into China, looking for potential sports stars.

Yao, 7 feet 5 and 295 lb, used to play for Shanghai Sharks. He was spotted by scouts while playing as a member of the Chinese national team. He now plays for the Houston Rockets.

"In fact, 20 percent of overseas NBA website hits are from China," Stern said.

THE MAKING/ A2-2

FAMOUS faces of international success. From left: Jackie Chan and Jet Li, both of Hong Kong, and Charlize Theron of South Africa are homegrown celebrities who have crossed over to international stardom.

Theater treats at HK arts festival

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ASIDE from the musical treats we featured here a couple of weeks ago, the Hong Kong Arts Festival (Feb. 17 to March 3) offers a number of theatrical delights:

- "Perchance to Dream" is being presented by the Footsbarn Traveling Theater, a 30-year-old company that employs an exuberantly "handmade" approach to breathe new life into the great classics. Its universal theatrical language involves masks, mime, marionettes, live music, shadowplay and circus skills.

"Perchance to Dream" intertwines themes and scenes from five of Shakespeare's best-known plays—"Romeo and Juliet," "Hamlet," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Macbeth" and "King Lear."

Exploring the different ages and changing seasons of Man, its subject is the human condition. (The production will be performed in English and some French, with Chinese and English subtitles.)

- "Johan Padan and the Discovery of America," by Nobel Prize-winning dramatist **Dario Fo**, is staged by the Compagnia Teatrale Fo-Rame. His celebrated monologue takes the audience on an incredible journey to a revisionist version of Columbus' voyage to the New World.

The hero, the wily clown Johan Padan, accidentally winds up on one of the first ships to the Americas. With a stroke of luck, the rogue goes from being the designated breakfast for a bunch of cannibals to becoming their leader and demigod. Episodic and fanciful, the story is vintage Fo.

Johan Padan is played by veteran Fo-Rame actor-singer-dancer **Mario Pirovano.**

- "Jesus Betz" is performed by La Troppa from Chile. Since 1987, the "human puppet" theater group has been making its mark internationally with the beauty and poetic force of its productions.

Born with neither arms nor legs, Jesus

THEATER / A2-2

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sm megamall
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
2 MEET THE FOCKERS
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
5 FEBRUARY LOVE FEST
6 ELEKTRA
7 ALFIE
8 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
9 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
10 DREAMBOY
11 SHALL WE DANCE
12 SALSA smcinemaexclusive

sm city fairview
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 ELEKTRA
3 SHALL WE DANCE
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
5 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
6 FEBRUARY LOVE FEST
7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 DREAMBOY
9 FLIGTH OF THE PHOENIX
10 WITHOUT A PADDLE
11 MEET THE FOCKERS
12 DREAMBOY

sm city north edsa
1 ELEKTRA
2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 SHALL WE DANCE
5 FEBRUARY LOVE FEST
6 MEET THE FOCKERS
7 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
8 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

sm city manila
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 FEBRUARY LOVE FEST
4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 ELEKTRA
6 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
7 SHALL WE DANCE
8 DREAMBOY
9 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
10 ALFIE
11 DREAMBOY
12 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

sm city sta. mesa
1 DREAMBOY
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 SHALL WE DANCE
5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
6 MEET THE FOCKERS
7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
9 DREAMBOY
10 ELEKTRA

sm city southmall
1 WITHOUT THE PADDLE
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 MEET THE FOCKERS
6 SHALL WE DANCE
7 DREAMBOY
8 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
9 ELEKTRA...
10 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

sm city bicutan
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 ELEKTRA
2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 DREAMBOY
2 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
3 MAD HOUSE
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 ELEKTRA
6 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

sm city baguio
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN KUNG
3 FU HUSTLE
4 DREAMBOY

sm city batangas
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 DREAMBOY
4 SHALL WE DANCE

sm city dasmariñas
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 DREAMBOY

sm city marilao
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 DREAMBOY
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 DREAMBOY

sm city bacoor
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
2 ELEKTRA
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 SHALL WE DANCE
5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
6 DREAMBOY
7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 MEET THE FOCKERS

sm city lucena
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 ELEKTRA
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 ELEKTRA

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE...
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 SALSA smcinemaexclusive
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
6 MAD HOUSE
7 DREAMBOY
8 ELEKTRA

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1 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 RESERVED
3 ELEKTRA
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
6 DREAMBOY
7 RESERVED
8 RACING STRIPES

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1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 HELLWOLF
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 ELEKTRA
5 DREAMBOY
6 NED KELLY

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2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 MEET THE FOCKERS

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GP
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
11:25, 2:25, 5:25
8:20, 11:10
PG-13
3 DREAMBOY
10:35, 1:05, 3:35,
6:05, 8:35, 11:05
GP
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
11:35, 2:05, 4:35,
7:05, 10:00
GP

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11.20, 2.00, 4.40, 7.20, 10:00 LMF
3 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
MTRCB (PG - 13)
12.20, 3.15, 6:10, 9:05 LMF
4 SHALL WE DANCE
MTRCB (GP)
12.25, 2.50, 5:15, 7:40, 10 05 LMP
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Theater treats at HK arts festival

From page A2-1

Betz starts off his voyage across the ocean tied to the top of the mast as the lookout on a whaler, and then is sold for people to gawk at as a fairground freak.

In his encounters with different people, he learns about cruelty and evil, as well as love and generosity. He carries in himself a hymn to life, and transcends his fate in an odyssey that starts in suffering but ends in love, and the finding of a "whole" existence.

With the imaginative use of masks, dolls, marionettes and many fanciful props, a mysterious and luminous world is created in which some 30 different characters come to life. (Performed in Spanish with Chinese and English subtitles.)

- "Vassa Zheleznova," by **Maxim Gorki**, is about a ruthlessly stern mother who is prepared to do anything to maintain her family business and its reputation, even if it means controlling everyone around her and sacrificing her husband, children and grandchildren.

Written in the early 20th century, Gorki's play reflects the spiritual decadence of the bourgeoisie, and the individualism of the time, and shows that, when human goodness subsides, human suffering increases.

Fifth season

THE ALL-NEW fifth season of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" unreels at 9 p.m. on Feb. 16 on AXN. The series' 100th episode, which also serves as its new season's premiere, solves four difficult cases.

Produced by **Jerry Bruckheimer**, "CSI" has garnered both high ratings and critical praise for its gripping chronicles of the most shocking crimes, topnotch scripts, great ensemble cast, cutting-edge flashback sequences, and exciting forensics technology.

The "CSI" team, made up of Gil Grissom, Catherine Willows, Sara Sidle, Capt. Jim Brass, Warrick Brown, Nick Stokes and Greg Sanders, works the graveyard shift at the Las Vegas Criminalistics Bureau, scouring crime scenes, collecting evidence and finding the missing pieces to solve many baffling mysteries.

'Ms Philippines'

THE UP Los Baños Thespian Circle presents for its 15th anniversary the musical-comedy "Ms Philippines" by **Isagani Cruz**, with music by **Rey T. Paguio**, on Feb. 15, 16 and 17 at the DL Umali Hall, UPLB, Laguna.

The musical revolves around five young women who join a beauty pageant to prove something not only to society, but also to themselves. **Rolando Inocencio** directs a cast led by **Dorothea Marabut**, **Shelah Ramirez**, **Ma. Crisceli Monzon**, **Cherry Ann Cadag** and **Rachelle Ringor**. Call 0916-3263088.

'Breaking the Silence'

STAR World screens "Breaking the Silence: Our Son Michael Jackson" at 9 p.m. on Feb. 17. The bare-all interview will tackle controversial questions, and reveals how the strong personality of Michael's father, **Joe Jackson**, continues to steer the family through both fame and shame.

In their 56 years of marriage, Joe and his wife, **Katherine**, have had more than their share of triumphs and tribulations through their children. "Breaking the Silence" shows Katherine's pained reactions to the persecution of her son. And how fact and fiction behind the man and the myth in the case of **Michael Jackson** is sometimes a matter of perspective.

The making of a Global star

From page A2-1

Tools for success

Taking an analytical tack, Laura Nash, senior lecturer at the Harvard Business School, discussed some of the findings in her book on star power and chief executive officers, "Just Enough: Tools for Creating Success in Your Work and Life."

She asked, "What is lasting success? Today the trend toward celebrity is powering itself, and we now have a beast to feed."

She said that charismatic leaders became brands themselves, as well as the face of their companies. But one false step and they are replaced immediately.

In her book, Nash said that, in addition to the moral difficulties that are posed by celebrity's narcissism and materialism, there are seeds of self-destruction in the celebrity approach to high achievement. The secret to success? "Go for just enough."

John K. Delterios, group vice president of Content and Anchor of United Kingdom and Italy, FBC Television, said the staying power in the CEO suite in the West is on average five years today whereas before, being a CEO was nearly a lifetime sinecure.

Nash said, "Celebrity can make people do [things] short term for the celebrity factor. Long-term successes don't have to benchmark on attention."

She cited Clint Eastwood as an artist who places greater value on legacy and artistic principles.

Eastwood, the icon of macho movie stars and a living legend, has become a standard in international cinema. He won an Oscar for Best Director and a nomination for Best Actor for his western, "Unforgiven." More recently, he was named Best Director by his peers in the Directors Guild of America for the current Oscar bet, "Million Dollar Baby."

Can't stand that host!

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

THE STAFF of a TV show wanted to surprise their loquacious host by inviting her *politico* crush to make a special appearance on her program. They asked the assistance of another TV host whom the dashing politician is said to be wooing. But as soon as she informed the politico about it he was disgusted. "Gods! I won't come out in that show even for a fee. I can't stand the host! *Tayo na lang ang mag*-dinner date." Wonder who the staff ended up inviting (coercing?!) instead just to please their lovelorn host?

Some readers e-mailed me asking why Lucy Torres agreed to be the image model of another shampoo brand when she's very much identified with the first shampoo brand she endorsed. In fact Lucy's first ad paved the way for her love story with Richard to blossom. (They met during the shooting of the ad) Career move? Or does she just need to change shampoos every now and then? Does loyalty get washed away just like that? Hair today, gone tomorrow?

I found it ridiculous when "Starstruck's" Final 4 (LJ, CJ, Ryza and Mike) were given a test to determine how independent they really are. I was expecting to see them doing tedious house chores; instead, they were billeted at a posh hotel. The Final 4 proudly displayed their skills in unpacking and hanging their clothes in the closet. Big deal! As if these young stars wouldn't be surrounded eventually by a coterie of *alalays* who will be at their beck and call 24 hours a day!

MTV VJ Hunt finalists

THEY'RE spunky, witty, and wacky—and they're out to win your hearts! Last week, MTV Philippines unveiled the finalists of this year's MTV VJ Hunt. Here are the 16 guys and girls who stood out from a crop of over 500 auditionees: Anna Domingo, Nicole Fonacier, Claire Olivar, Chynna Ortaleza, Rashel Piazza, Gwen Ruais, Veronica Scott, Maggie Wilson, T Arceño, Christian Esteban, Marv Luna, Srdjan Mendoza, Colby Miller, Jon Papworth, Don Puno, and Drew Wolff.

These MTV VJ hopefuls are scheduled to appear on various MTV shows, including "MTV Siesta," weekdays at 2 p.m.; "MTV Celebrity Spin," weekdays at 9 a.m.; "MTV Get Spotted," weekdays at 1 p.m.; "Hanging Out @ MTV," weekdays at 4 p.m.; and "Be Seen @ MTV," Fridays at 10:30 pm. Apart from these appearances, the finalists will also undergo different challenges that will put them to the test physically, mentally, and emotionally! The MTV VJ Hunt 2005 finals night will be held in March 2005. Four people—two males and two females—will be asked to join the MTV family as full-fledged MTV VJs. In the meantime, get up close and personal with the finalists at the MTV VJ Hunt bar tour. The last stop will be on Friday, Feb. 25, 10 p.m. at Basement in Eastwood City, Libis.

Film Academy voting

THE FILM Academy of the Philippines is inviting the public to join the simulated selection of the Academy Award winners. Log on to www.fapweb.org and click on Awards Selection. Type in your choices in the provided entry form and click submit. That simple. This promo runs from Feb. 1 until March 16, 2005. Twenty participants can win a free ticket to the Academy Awards night on April 5 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Join the stars by participating in the Academy Awards selection process. Visit www.fapweb.org for more details.

(For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)

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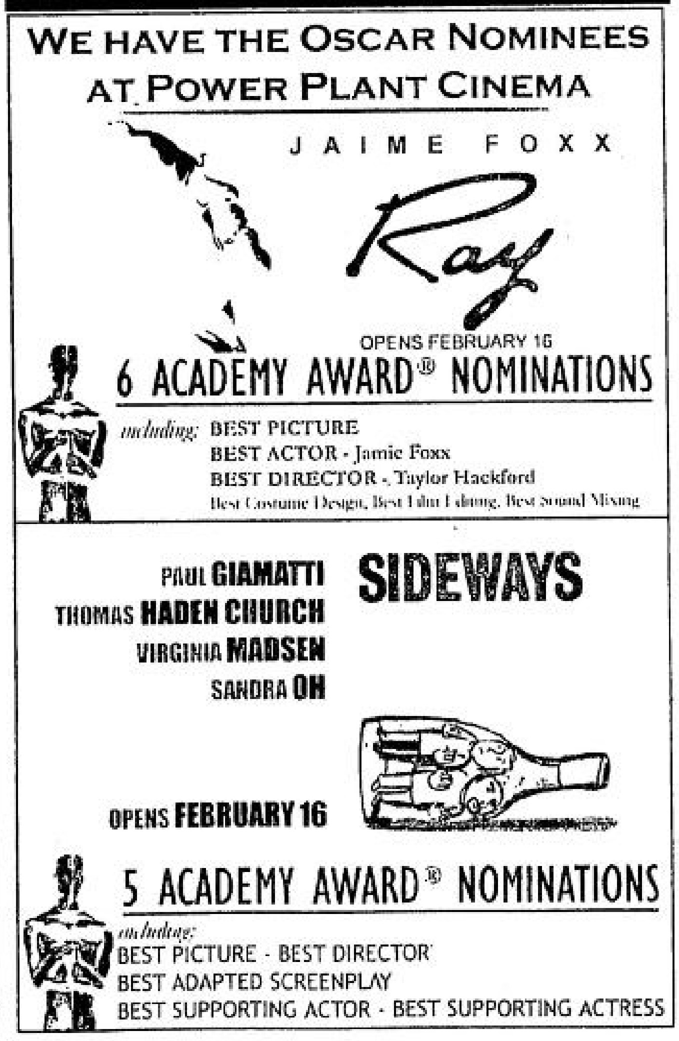
DREAMBOY GP 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00	ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 R13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX GP 12:40,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30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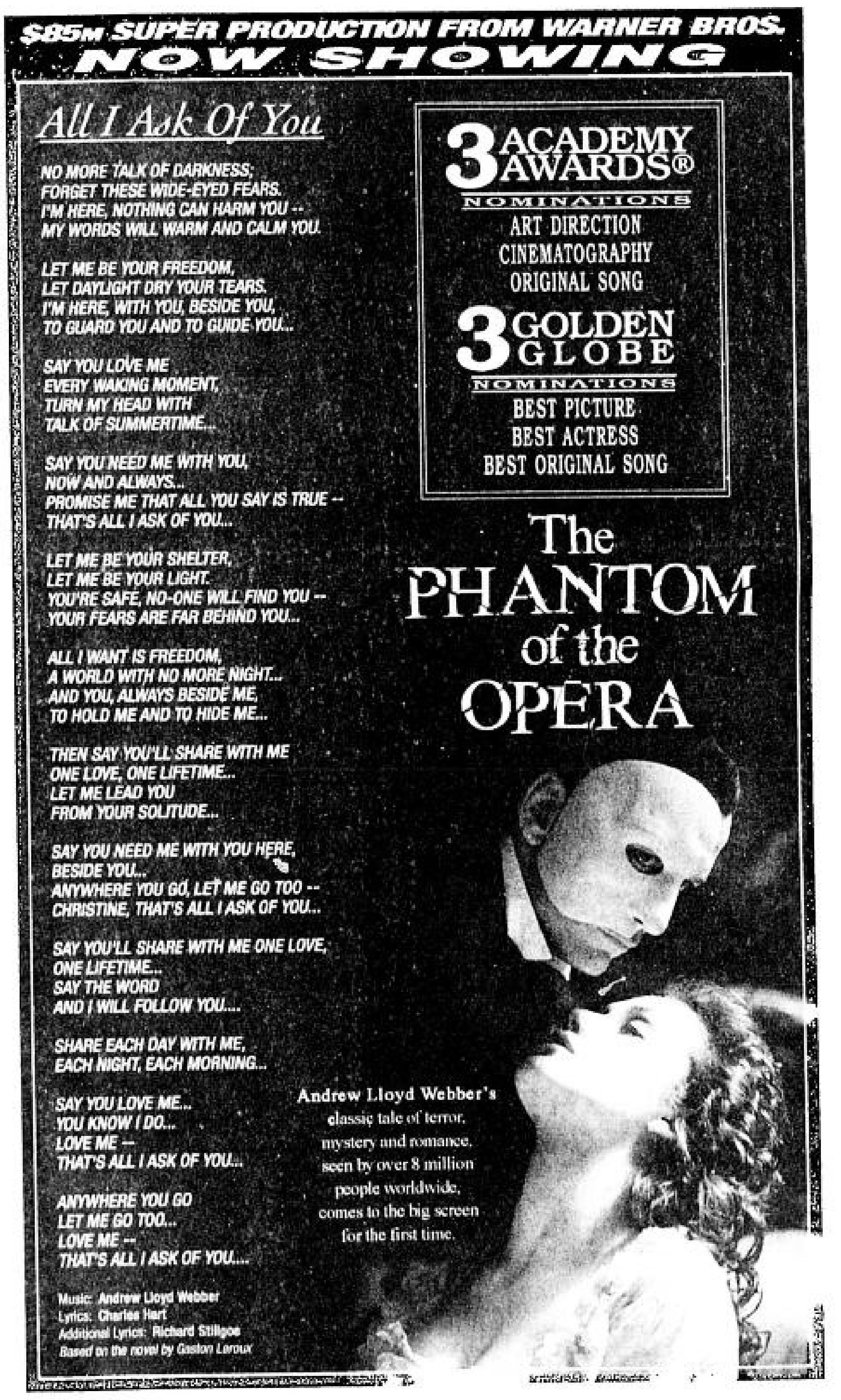
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TALK OF SUMMERTIME...

SAY YOU NEED ME WITH YOU,
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PROMISE ME THAT ALL YOU SAY IS TRUE --
THAT'S ALL I ASK OF YOU...

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LET ME BE YOUR LIGHT.
YOU'RE SAFE, NO-ONE WILL FIND YOU --
YOUR FEARS ARE FAR BEHIND YOU...

ALL I WANT IS FREEDOM,
A WORLD WITH NO MORE NIGHT...
AND YOU, ALWAYS BESIDE ME,
TO HOLD ME AND TO HIDE ME...

THEN SAY YOU'LL SHARE WITH ME
ONE LOVE, ONE LIFETIME...
LET ME LEAD YOU
FROM YOUR SOLITUDE...

SAY YOU NEED ME WITH YOU HERE,
BESIDE YOU...
ANYWHERE YOU GO, LET ME GO TOO --
CHRISTINE, THAT'S ALL I ASK OF YOU...

SAY YOU'LL SHARE WITH ME ONE LOVE,
ONE LIFETIME...
SAY THE WORD
AND I WILL FOLLOW YOU...

SHARE EACH DAY WITH ME,
EACH NIGHT, EACH MORNING...

SAY YOU LOVE ME...
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LOVE ME --
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LOVE ME --
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Music: Andrew Lloyd Webber
Lyrics: Charles Hart
Additional Lyrics: Richard Stilgoe
Based on the novel by Gaston Leroux

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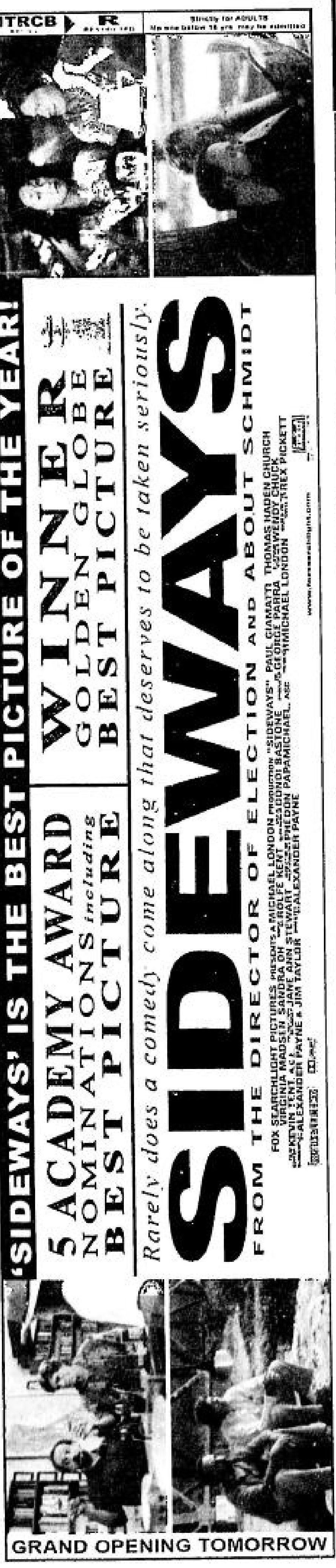
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT

PATRICK WILSON and Emmy Possum in an operetta for the MTV generation

Screen 'Phantom' is disappointing

As a sing-through musical, its full-throttle, wall-to-wall scoring sounds overwrought and repetitive on film. But Emmy Rossum is enchanting

By Gibbs Cadiz

REVIEW

AS ANY earnest fan of musical theater would know, subtlety is not Andrew Lloyd Webber's strongest suit.

To be fair, it may not be entirely his fault. While his more whimsical, small-scale works like "By Jeeves," "Whistle Down the Wind" and "Aspects of Love" found little favor with audiences, his grand war-horses have made him stupendously rich and famous.

Musicals like "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Evita," "Starlight Express," "Cats," "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Sunset Boulevard" rolled out of the Lloyd Webber musical factory like a succession of Faberge eggs, each one more glittering and ambitious than the last.

The crowds lapped them up (some for decades, like "Cats" and "Phantom") in the teeth of often mixed to bad reviews. To Lloyd Webber, the lesson must have been clear: in musical theater, supersize sells.

And so it is, that with "The Phantom of the Opera," he took on no less than the task of marrying the styles and forms of Western classical music with contemporary pop-rock idioms. An operetta for the MTV generation—what could be bolder than that?

His source material was Gaston Leroux's pulp classic about a hideously deformed outcast prowling the dank corridors of the Paris Opera House and obsessing over a beautiful young soprano.

Certainly, if Disney could transform Quasimodo into the genial, sweet-voiced Quasi in its animated version of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," Lloyd Webber's melodic magic could work similar wonders on the old, asthmatic coot with a fondness for dungeon living.

Big-screen adaptation

Now comes the movie version of "The Phantom of the Opera," 17 years after it opened on Broadway. Lloyd Webber has collaborated with director Joel Schumacher on a big-screen adaptation that pulls out all the stops—but one that ultimately disappoints more than it enthralls.

The problem is basic: this stage extravaganza doesn't translate well on screen. As a sing-through musical, its full-throttle, wall-to-wall scoring sounds overwrought and repetitive on film. The camera's ability to floodlight faces and movements, create close-ups and capture minutiae makes movies a much more understated medium compared to the stage.

No doubt that in the theater, with its undeviating long shot of the action happening in front, Lloyd Webber's bombastic music and sweeping theatricality can envelop an audience more readily.

Take the role of the Phantom: on Broadway, the homely-looking Michael Crawford overcame his slight voice and presence not only with great acting but with the not inconsiderable help of a synthesizer (it's as much a special effect as the falling chandelier, as Gerard Alessandrini's brilliant parody in "Forbidden Broadway" shows).

And when he lamented his "abhorrent face," theatergoers at a safe distance need not have to look too closely to confirm if makeup had done its job.

Hunky specter

Contrast that with Gerard Butler's Phantom in the film version. At various points in the musical, this creature is described as a "loathsome gargoyle," "a repulsive carcass," "a freak of nature ... so distorted and deformed it was hardly a face."

Yet when the camera zooms in on the Phantom, the man turns out to be a hunk. The specter who lives in the shadows, who has for years inhabited the Opera Populaire's filthy, rat-infested bowels, emerges as a magnificent specimen of manhood who moves regally and, more bafflingly, is no more ugly than any one of the common stagehands.

This "monster" on whose shoulders rest much of the horror and romance of the material now wears his white mask like a mock-gothic stud with a penchant for kabuki makeup.

To realize how ridiculously over-art-directed this film is, you only need to look at that mask. The year is 1870, yet the Phantom's disguise is the height of glam design, the shape perfectly molding itself to every crevice and contour of Butler's handsome face.

Such aesthetic onanism seems par for the course for Schumacher. He it was who also added nipples to Batman's suit in "Batman and Robin," neatly killing the franchise.

Pictorial splendor

"Phantom" thus becomes a giant exercise in overstuffing, with yards and yards of gilded drapery and costumes filling in for the wispy drama at its core. Or as the opera corps sings it, "Take your fill—let the spectacle astound you!"

Schumacher's talent for pictorial splendor is evident in gorgeous set pieces that give the film a classy sheen.

The best of these, the Masquerade Ball scene, takes a leaf from the famous "Ascot Gavotte" sequence in George Cukor's "My Fair Lady," with the resplendently costumed performers sliding in and out of the frame in time with the overripe orchestrations.

Lloyd Webber is on record as having re-orchestrated the entire soundtrack to create an even grander sound for this film. What you get is exactly the kind of italicized amplification and hyperbole that sweeps away the story's last delicate nuances, leaving you deadened and enervated after two-and-a-half hours of sensory assault.

"Phantom's" music has no emotional middle registers, but fans of the show would love the heightened tempestuousness.

Enchanting find

If there is one thing to recommend "Phantom" for, it is Emmy Rossum as the ingénue Christine Daae. Roger Ebert has called her a "phenomenal talent"—too gushing a description perhaps, but Rossum is indeed enchanting with her warm, beautifully burnished soprano.

The only genuinely spine-tingling moment in "Phantom" comes very early, when Rossum sings "Think of Me" before a rapturous audience. She is so good you will forget Sarah Brightman's breathy version (which is the most popular, even if other stage Christines like Lisa Vroman and Rebecca Caine sang much better).

The Vicomte Raoul de Chagny, Christine's lover, is played by Patrick Wilson, who was excellent as a conflicted gay Mormon Republican in the recent "Angels in America." Here, however, his sort of wounded charisma is as wan and insubstantial as Butler's Phantom.

They both sing well, but if leading men are this unengaging, perhaps Christine would be better off staying single and giving voice lessons in her old age. Or doing guided tours of the Phantom's underground lair.

(E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph)

OPM for love

Maudlin, melodious, sappy or snappy, these are the love tunes that made—and are still making—romantics all over the country swoon. We asked some industry legends and fast-rising stars for their personal list of favorites

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Contributor

WE SHOULD know. We, who are from the land of *kundiman* and *harana*, have the ear for ditties bound to make lovers hear the sound of violins "long before it begins." Sigh, sway, see stars? These, too.

English, Tagalog or Taglish—we only required that the songs should have been composed by Filipinos.

One of our respondents listed more than 10 tunes. Basil Valdez picked 15. Nyoy Volante explained his choices. Kuh Ledesma thought long and hard, and turned in her answers in installments.

Celeste Legaspi named one, only one: the song that her husband Nonoy Gallardo composed while he was courting her.

Sharon Cuneta apologized for including among her choices several of her own hits. We were only too happy to indulge her.

BASIL VALDEZ

* "Ngayon at Kailanman"—George Canseco

* "Hanggang sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan"—George Canseco
* "Kastilyong Buhangin"—George Canseco
* "Tuwing Umuulan at Kapiling Ka"—Ryan Cayabyab
* "Kahit Ika'y Panaginip Lang"—Ryan Cayabyab
* "Iduyan Mo"—Ryan Cayabyab
* "You"—Gerry Paraiso
* "Let the Pain Remain"—Willy Cruz
* "Gaano Kadalas ang Minsan"—George Canseco
* "Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga"—Cecile Azarcon
* "Hindi Kita Malilimutan"—Manuel Francisco
* "Say That You Love Me"—Louie Ocampo
* "Lift Up Your Hands"—Cecile Azarcon
* "Tunay na Ligaya"—Ryan Cayabyab
* "Siya Na Ba?"—Charles Wong and George Canseco

KUH LEDESMA

* "You"—Gerry Paraiso
* "Rainbow"—Jay Durias and Sharon Inductivo

* "Gaano Kadalas ang Minsan"
* "Kailangan Kita" by Gary Valenciano—Ogie Alcasid
* "Habang May Buhay"—Wency Cornejo
* "Till I Met You"—Odette Quesada
* "Di Na Natuto"—Danny Javier
* "One More Try"—Cecile Azarcon
* "Kung Mahawi Man ang Ulap"—Willy Cruz
* "Sana Maulit Muli"—Gery Valenciano and Angeli Pangilinan
* "You are My Song"—Louie Ocampo and Martin Nievera

CELESTE LEGASPI

* "Tuliro"—Nonoy Gallardo

SHARON CUNETA

* "Ngayon at Kailanman"

* "Maging Sino Ka Man"—Rey Valera
* "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas"—Willy Cruz
* "Bituing Walang Ningning—Willy Cruz
* "Forevermore"—Joey Benin
* "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin"—Louie Ocampo
* "Nandito Ako"—Aaron Paul del Rosario
* "How Can I?"—Ryan Cayabyab
* "Sana Maulit Muli"

NYOY VOLANTE

* "Bakit Ngayong Ka Lang"—Ogie Alcasid
* "Tamis ng Unang Halik"—Mon del Rosario

* "Kastilyong Buhangin"
* "Minsan Lang Kitang Iibigin"—Aaron Paul del Rosario
* "Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin"—Jimmy Borja
* "Ikaw" by Sharon Cuneta—George Canseco and Louie Ocampo
* "Parang Kapiling"—Nyoy Volante
* "Ba't Di Mo Pagbigyan"—King
* "Pangako (Sa 'Yo)"—Rey Valera

NINA

* "Ewan"—Louie Ocampo and Rowena Arrieta
* "Kabilugan ng Buwan"—Danny Javier
* "Magkayakap sa Dilim"—Jim Paredes

* "Panalangin"—Jim Paredes
* "You Won't See Me Crying"—Gerry Paraiso
* "Let Me Be the One"—Jimmy Bondoc
* "Coffee Cup"—Paolo Santos
* "Nasaan"—Nyoy Volante
* "Muli"—Jungee Marcelo and Gary Valenciano
* "Till My Heartaches End"—Tito Cayamanda, Vehnee Saturno and Rico Soliman

ERIK SANTOS

* "Say That You Love Me"—Louie Ocampo and Alan Ayque
* "Sana Maulit Muli"
* "Kahit Isang Saglit"—Louie Ocampo, Raul Roxas, Geri Gatchalian and

DAN GIL

* "Ikaw ang Lahat sa Akin"—Cecile Azarcon
* "You Are My Song"
* "Don't Know What to Do, Don't Know What to Say"—Odette Quesada
* "I'll Never Go"—Frank Singcol
* "Tell Me"—Louie Ocampo and Alan Ayque
* "Forevermore"
* "Kung Akin ang Mundo"—Christian Martinez

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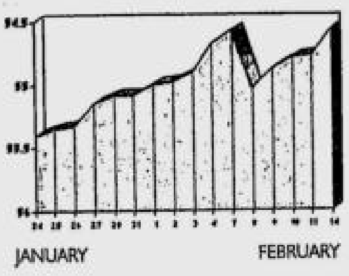


P 54.56 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 14, 2005

¥ 104.98 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 14, 2005

GOLD: $ 422.50-423.00

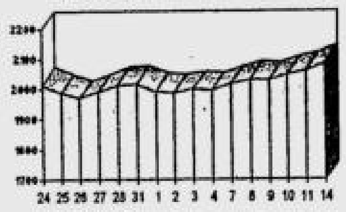
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 14, 2005

February 14, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.777061	1.000000	54.8050
Japan	Yen	0.007351	0.009460	0.5185
United Kingdom	Pound	1.451628	1.868100	102.3812
Hongkong	Dollar	0.099631	0.128215	7.0268
Switzerland	Franc	0.642093	0.826310	45.2859
Canada	Dollar	0.628436	0.808734	44.3227
Singapore	Dollar	0.471661	0.606980	33.2655
Australia	Dollar	0.610465	0.785608	43.0552
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.061225	2.652590	145.3752
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207217	0.266667	14.6147
Brunei	Dollar	0.470234	0.605144	33.1649
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000108	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.020176	0.025964	1.4230
UAE	Dirham	0.211589	0.272294	14.9231
Euro	Euro	1	1.286900	70.5286
Argentina	Peso	0.267032	0.343643	18.8334
Brazil	Real	0.298182	0.383730	21.0303
Denmark	Kroner	0.134347	0.172891	9.4753
India	Rupee	0.017781	0.022883	1.2541
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.204517	0.263193	14.4243
Mexico	New Peso	0.069716	0.089718	4.9170
New Zealand	Dollar	0.554648	0.713776	39.1185
Norway	Kroner	0.118527	0.152532	8.3595
Pakistan	Rupee	0.01309	0.016846	0.9232
South Africa	Rand	0.128416	0.165259	9.0570
Korea	Won	0.000752	0.000968	0.0531
Sweden	Kroner	0.109935	0.141475	7.7535
Syria	Pound	0.014969	0.019264	1.0558
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.02456	0.031606	1.7322
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000406	0.000522	0.0286

STOCK MARKET

Shares jump 1.12%

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

SHARE prices closed 1.12 percent higher yesterday after the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) against money-laundering removed the country from its blacklist of insufficiently cooperative states, dealers said.

They said extended buying momentum from Friday lifted the key index to a fresh five-year high, buoyed by expectations of an improved economic outlook, corporate earnings and consumer spending this year.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 23.02 points to 2,084.50. It moved between 2,061.48 and 2,088.78.

It was the index's best finish since Jan. 17, 2000, when it closed at 2,097.23.

Turnover reached 4.25 billion shares worth P1.89 billion.

The broader all-shares index rose 9.46 points to 1,205.70. Gainers led losers 96 to 20, with 37 stocks unchanged.

"Investors cheered the news of the Philippines being removed from the FATF blacklist. This, together with the extended buying momentum, propelled the market higher," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

The FATF, an independent international body set up by the Group of Seven industrialized nations, said on Friday that the Philippines was effectively implementing anti-money laundering measures.

The move took the Philippines off a shrinking list of rogue countries and places the country in a better light with international investors.

Comments from Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday that international ratings agency Moody's Investors Service might cut the Philippines' sovereign credit ratings by at least a notch later this month, had little effect on the market. Moody's downgrade would mirror an earlier move by Standard and Poor's.

"But we may soon see some profit-taking. The market needs to take a breather," Macapagal said, noting that the market has been trading at overbought levels for some time.

Top-traded Semirara Mining added P5 to P49.

First Philippine Holdings was up P4 to P49.50, and parent Benpres Holdings gained 18 centavos to P1.18. *AFP*

A. Brown to invest in mining

PUBLICLY listed holding firm A. Brown Co. Inc. is venturing into mining after its board approved a proposal to form a new company for this new investment.

A.Brown, which is primarily engaged in real-estate development, said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its board approved the investment of P17.5 million in a new mining company. It did not give further details.

With the sale of its chemical and marketing units in 2000, A. Brown's primary focus is now in finishing its real estate projects. Its prime development is located in Cagayan de Oro City, a sprawling 200-hectare project dubbed Xavier Estates. Its mixed-use concept of land development combines residential, commercial and leisure. It is a self-contained community with amenities like sports and country club, school, and a soon-to-be-built church.

PSE to host mining forum

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange (PSE) will host a mining forum on Feb. 21, from 1-5 p.m. at the PSE Auditorium in Pasig City.

The PSE noted that the Supreme Court's ruling on the mining law this year breathed a new life for the mining sector as investors went on a buying spree of mining shares. The mining index surged 95.3 percent to 3,170.13 in end-2004 from 1,623.18 in 2003.

The mining sector traded 27.27 billion shares in December 2004 from 1.01 billion shares in the same month in 2003. Value of shares traded likewise soared to P2.35 billion from P42.28 million.

The mining sector traded 27.27 billion shares in December 2004 from 1.01 billion shares in the same month in 2003. Value of shares traded likewise soared to P2.35 billion from P42.28 million.

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY bill rates continued to decline across the board yesterday as the delisting of the Philippines from the blacklist of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) further boosted the market's appetite for government securities.

The bellwether 91-day treasury bill rate, used as a benchmark in pricing bank loans, declined by 13.7 basis points to 6.71 percent. (One percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points.) Banks scrambled for the three-month dept instrument, with total bids reaching P12.41 billion, or more than double the government's offering of P4.5 billion.

The 182-day bills fetched a yield of 7.603 percent, or 24.2 basis points lower than the previous level, after it got tenders worth P9.66 billion. The amount of bids for the six-month debt paper was also more than double the government's offering of only P4 billion.

The rate for the 364-day paper fell by 19.7 basis points to 8.591 percent. The one-year debt paper was also twice oversubscribed, as bids reached P9.41 billion compared with the government's intended borrowing of only P3.5 billion.

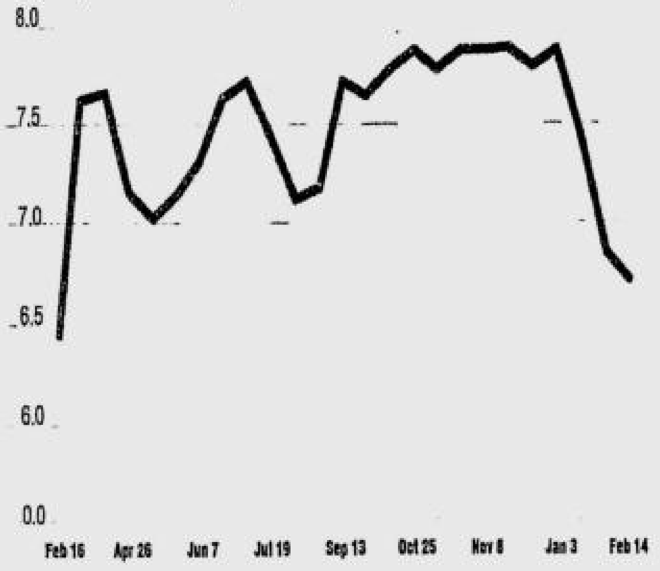
The Bureau of Treasury's auction committee raised its entire borrowing schedule for the week of P12 billion from the three short-term government securities.

"We seem to have all the good fundamentals, and there is still excess liquidity in the market," Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Men-

T-BILL/ B4

91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES

Feb 16, 2004 to Feb 14, 2005



Vibrant economy seen in Year of the Rooster

By Doris C. Dumlao

THIS YEAR of the Rooster, which the Chinese community believes will be a more stable and prosperous period, is indeed offering a bullish year for the Philippines, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipines Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

The peso yesterday closed stronger at 54.56 against the US dollar from Friday's 54.77 as a favorable reaction to Friday's delisting of the Philippines from the watchlist of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force on money laundering as well as the appointment of career central banker Amando Tetangco Jr. as the next BSP Governor.

In a forum with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, Buenaventura said the positive tidings from the Year of the Rooster may be holding true for the Philippines.

"From how we have hit the ground running in 2005, we have recently seen marked return of investor confidence as seen through the rapid strengthening of our peso-dollar exchange rate that has breached both the 56 and 55 level, increased activity in our stock exchange, reasonable borrowing costs from our recent global and domestic bond issuances as well as CalPERS (California Public Employees Retirement System) retaining us in their investment list," Buenaventura said.

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PLDT sees gains on strong peso

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. is expecting higher profits as the peso continues to strengthen against the dollar, according to PLDT's top official.

"A stronger peso would mean less cost and expenses," PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno said in an interview. "It could mean higher profits for the group."

He explained that a strong peso would allow PLDT to cut down on interest payments for its huge foreign debt.

PLDT on March 1 will announce its 2004 profits, estimated to be more than P24 billion or more than double the P11.2 billion posted a year ago, on sustained strength of its wireless business and gradual recovery of its fixed-line operations.

Of the PLDT Group's estimated $2.8-billion debt, $2 billion are owed by the fixed-line business. Wireless units Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. have a combined obligation of $718 million.

The peso continues to gain on the back of positive developments like the Philippines' removal from the Financial Action Task Force's list of countries with no sufficient money laundering controls. Dealers said the peso could appreciate to P54.50 in the coming months.

PLDT earlier said it likely incurred P2 billion in foreign exchange losses last year when it adopted the new international accounting standards. But the amount would be charged to retained earnings and should not affect the company's bottomline.

"A strong local currency means we would need less peso to settle our dollar requirements, including payment of our obligations," said Nazareno.

An official of a PLDT subsidiary cautioned, however, that in the case of the wireless business, the movement of the yen against the dollar was also important.

A third of Piltel's debts, which are now owed to Smart, are dominated in yen, the rest in greenback.

"We always have to deal with foreign exchange losses," said a well-placed Piltel official. "Even if the dollar is weak, we could take a hit on the yen this year."

Of Piltel's estimated P7 billion profits last year, about half are nonrecurring. This year, the company said it should earn more than P3 billion. Last year was the first time since 1997 that Piltel registered profits. In 2003, the company reported a net loss of P3.35 billion.

Nazareno earlier said PLDT wanted to be more aggressive in cutting debts this year, thus ruling out any form of public borrowing on the near term.

"We really do not have intention of accessing public debt in the near future, he said. "We are paying down debt on an accelerated basis as long as it makes financial sense."

PLDT said it would settle at least $540 million in debt this year. Of the amount, $370 million is due to the fixed-line business while its wireless units would have to pay $170 million.

Prepaying debts would allow PLDT to save on interests, speed up its debt reduction strategy, and minimize currency risks. The telecom giant on Dec. 20 settled a $106-million obligation ahead of schedule.

The plan, according to Nazareno, is to aggressively reduce more debts that would allow the company to realize interest savings.

Nazareno said PLDT hoped to bring down debts below $1.5 billion by the end of 2006.

PLDT's share price closed at P1,435 yesterday from P1,420 on Friday.

Buck stoops here

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NO MATTER what the critics say, we have to give it to this cute administration of Gloriaetta that it only wants to improve our lives whenever it takes the supreme sacrifice of trying to boost its popularity rating at all cost.

In its noble duty to go for high public approval, therefore, this cute administration must feed some sectors of the economy to the wolves. Or the crocodiles in public office!

As everybody knows, its latest victims are the wood-based industries. In reaction to media outcry against illegal logging, this cute administration suspended all logging operations in the entire country for the past two months now.

Hurting—if not already dead—are those few companies in the legitimate logging business. Also worried are the multitude of end-product factories, such as furniture makers, newsprint plants, and toilet paper manufacturers.

Soon, with the limited supply of forest products, newspaper companies may run out of newsprint, and we all stop going to the toilet.

* * *

OUR legitimate logging sector is the only business in the whole wide world that stopped operations due to arbitrary government closure of an entire—again ENTIRE—industry.

I may have amnesia, but I don't remember this cute administration ever calling for even one freaking public hearing to close the entire wood industry.

All that haste and arbitrariness, of course, had something to do with the flooding and landslide disaster in Quezon province last December.

It seems that this cute administration was caught flatfooted by the crisis, as media had a field day on illegal logging. What was the DENR doing about it?

To cool off the hot issue of the day, the DENR decided to punish NOT the illegal loggers, but the legitimate logging companies.

That's like slapping your future mother-in-law because your neighbor's podiatrist kissed your dog. Or something like that.

* * *

BELIEVE me, if because of all this foolishness, the legitimate logging industry goes under, we all suffer.

Off hand, for the past two months, the P20-billion investments in logging were idle. Nothing was running. Those investments were not productive.

Now, we export about P21 billion worth of wood products every year. All those businesses using forest products, toilet paper makers and such, employ about two million people. Are they also going to lose their jobs?

Honestly, I've been wracking my brains, trying to figure out what made the DENR think that if only it stopped all legitimate logging, illegal logging would stop.

Where did Gloriaetta find those guys, anyway?

* * *

ON top of those is DENR Secretary Michael Defensor. His long experience in managing a line department such as the DENR, actually, dates back a few months.

Previous to the DENR post, Defensor enjoyed the title of "housing czar," which remained only a title, without any line functions whatsoever.

But before the good secretary earned such a title, he gained invaluable knowledge as a politician. He learned all the tricks on how to win elections.

So much so that when he had to take on the czar title, the political dynasty he started was already in place in Quezon City.

His sister took his place as congressman. When the sister could no longer run, Defensor's father laid claim to the position.

* * *

WITH his deep experience in management, surely, nobody could dare question Defensor why he suspended the operations of an entire industry—and he did so without giving a single word of explanation on how his move would affect the entire country.

Because he knows only how to win elections, Defensor brilliantly passed on the buck to his boss, Gloriaetta, saying that he could not stoop down to the lowlifes in logging, because lifting the suspension was all up to the Palace.

In turn, when she was not visiting the poor for photo-op, Gloriaetta was telling us that it was actually Defensor's call.

Their badminton game, meanwhile, got the banks worried. The banks, after all, only lent billions upon billions of pesos to the country's wood industries.

Moreover, nobody in the wood business can say what ever will happen to all their multi-million-dollar export contracts.

None of those should be the concern of Gloriaetta. One has to do what one must do to improve one's popularity rating, doesn't one?

* * *

BUT before we talk of the loss of two million jobs in the wood industries, let me tell you that they will include the jobs of the loudmouths in media—those who perhaps think that anybody who makes money, particularly by using wood, is evil.

We may also lose our jobs because the paper we use to make newspaper comes from wood. Or we import all the pulp to make the newsprint.

But what about all those processing plants—such as factories of plywood, veneer, posts, and poles? Don't tell me they will also have to import all their raw materials?

Today, we are already importing a lot of wood. Why? It's because we never really paid attention to forest management. We would rather ban logging completely than try everything to manage our resources well.

Only 30 years ago, the Philippines was exporting $400 million worth of wood products every year, while a country like Chile was doing at $60 million.

Today, after Chile paid attention to its forest management, it is exporting more than $2 billion of wood products a year. It does not import any raw material.

Today we export $80 million worth of wood products a year. We also import about $600 million. When are we going to wake up?

* * *

THE SOLUTION, I think, is not for us to sacrifice the jobs of two million people, some P20 billion worth of investments in logging, and a host of downstream businesses.

Moreover, if we decide to import all the wood which we need, everything is going to be pretty expensive.

Look, what will happen to the low-cost housing program of this cute administration? Not that there is one, because Defensor, as "housing czar," actually did everything in his power for the government to put up zero houses.

Already, prices of wood products have gone up by 40 percent in recent months. Supply is simply tight. Imports are expensive.

Yet we need about P28 billion worth of lumber every year if we have to import everything. Can we afford it?

We are still borrowing money abroad. We cannot afford to import a single cent of something that we already have here.

* * *

LIKE it or not, we need to cut trees, and we need to do it wisely. That's where the DENR should come in because, if I'm not mistaken, it is the outfit in charge of forest management.

If we stop all legitimate logging, the illegal loggers will simply take over. That already happened in Quezon. A simple DENR logging ban does not mean that people will stop cutting down trees.

Out of the 7.5 million hectares of forest, licensed logging company account for about 600,000 hectares.

In other areas, the illegal loggers operate. The fact is, there are a lot of sawmills in those protected areas.

Why can't the DENR, instead of imposing a unilateral arbitrary closure of an entire industry, just dismantle first all the wood processing plants in those areas?

Why can't it just revoke the license of those plants that have no long-term supply contracts with legitimate local or foreign sources of wood?

* * *

THE LEGITIMATE logging sector claims that its members practice selective logging, cutting only 20 mature trees per hectare every year, out of 2,500 trees per hectare.

The sector says that its members replant twice the number of trees that they cut, which are then harvested after 20 years.

How, in other words, can they be the bad guys? I think it is up to Defensor to find out. If Defensor can prove that the legitimate loggers do not follow the rule, I will personally castrate them for him.

I mean, come on, it's his job, isn't it? His real job is not how to become handsome and popular so he can win more elections!

From my end, I can only say that the poor rating of this cute administration is becoming more and more costly to business.

The biggest question now is whether or not this country can really afford the low popularity rating of this cute administration of Gloriaetta?

I think it is about time that we cook up the survey results to show that this cute administration's rating is hitting the roof. At least we can still save some business sectors.

Ayala Land net income hit ₱3B in 2004

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA Land Inc. yesterday reported that its 2004 net income grew 11 percent to P3 billion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, ALI said that it posted a record high of P18.1 billion in consolidated revenues last year—a 24-percent jump from the previous year.

It said favorable market response to its high quality and innovative products boosted revenues while initiatives to efficiently manage expenses cushioned the effects of increasing margin pressure from rising costs.

Strong growth was also felt across ALI's various business lines.

The firm's leasing business, derived from shopping centers, office buildings and hotels, posted good growth due to improving market conditions and the high quality of leased properties. These businesses combined accounted for 31 percent of total revenues.

Shopping centers and office leasing revenues amounted to P3.9 billion, growing by 10 percent year-on-year and contributing 22 percent to the total.

In the past year, total mall leasable area increased with the opening of Greenbelt 4, the completion of SM Makati renovation and the start of operations of Market! Market! in Fort Bonifacio.

At Ayala Center, which generates the bulk of shopping center revenues, total sales and same-store sales grew by 11 percent and 8 percent, respectively, given the increased pedestrian traffic generated by its walkway system and sustained advertising and marketing activities.

Revenues from hotel operations contributed 9 percent of consolidated revenues or P1.5 billion, up 21 percent year-on-year.

Condominium and high-end residential unit sales generated P3.6 billion in revenues and contributed 20 percent to total revenues.

Revenues from mass housing sales through Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. (LPHI) amounted to P1.8 billion or 10 percent of total. LPHI's sales booking increased by 6 percent to 1,536 units in 2004, while mass housing revenues slightly declined by 4 percent.

In 2004, Ayala Land's consolidated project and capital expenditures amounted to P8.1 billion, 47 percent of which was spent for residential buildings and townhouse projects.

For 2005, Ayala land is allocating a P13.6 billion for consolidated project and capital expenditures.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 14, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.9	4.3	3.9	4.3	88,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	29.5	28.5	29.5	1,468,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58	57	57	490,100
China Banking Corp.	575	575	575	575	2,720
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	49	48	49	30,700
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.45	0.48	0.45	0.48	3,800,000
International Exch. Bank	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.5	667,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35.5	36.5	35.5	36	3,171,700
Philippine National Bank	31	35	31	35	99,100
Philippine Trust Co.	37	37	37	37	100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15.25	16	15.25	16	23,200
Security Bank Corp.	34	34	33.5	34	264,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	560,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.95	0.99	0.95	0.99	70,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	194	194	194	194	210
Manulife Financial Corp.	2470	2470	2470	2470	450
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2.1	2.14	2.1	2.14	145,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	125	130	125	130	225,220
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1780	1780	1780	1780	850
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.5	18	17.5	17.75	136,700
Diversified Fin. Network	5	5	5	5	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.76	1.78	1.72	1.76	31,171,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	940	955	940	950	83,640
Ipeople Inc.	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.7	135,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	5,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.038	0.039	0.038	0.039	4,300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	160,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	4,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.55	3.65	5,812,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1430	1435	1425	1435	95,330
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.65	890,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	17,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	19,800
Manila Electric Co. B	27	28	27	27.5	812,700
Petron Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.7	3.75	1,297,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	100,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.62	1.66	1.62	1.64	1,665,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.84	1.86	4,090,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	1,031,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	130,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.14	190,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.49	0.56	0.49	0.56	10,750,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	50,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.45	4.5	3.8	3.95	12,717,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	75,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.85	4	3.85	3.85	376,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	36	36	36	36	78,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26.5	28.5	26.5	28	1,268,400
RFM Corp.	0.8	0.83	0.79	0.83	570,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	160,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57	58	132,900
San Miguel Corp. B	78.5	80	78.5	80	344,400
Universal Robina Corp.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	26,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.29	1,000,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	11	11	11	11	19,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.009	0.011	0.009	0.011	340,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.009	0.011	0.009	0.011	126,000,000
Ayala Corp.	8.6	8.7	8.5	8.7	11,674,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.72	0.82	0.72	0.75	5,300,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4	4.3	4	4.25	2,477,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	10,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.032	11,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.02	2.12	2.02	2.12	1,906,000
APC Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.4	0.41	11,760,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	85,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	20	20	20	20	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	2,950,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.22	1.02	1.18	121,030,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.8	1.04	0.8	0.86	140,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	1,260,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	14,260,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.67	0.7	0.67	0.7	10,580,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.8	4.95	4.8	4.9	6,785,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	10,100,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	456,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	9.3	9.4	9.1	9.3	264,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45.5	49.5	45.5	49.5	3,543,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	150,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	300,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.8	2.08	1.8	2.04	18,932,000
Ionics Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	50,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.2	2.28	2.2	2.28	510,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.9	1.94	1.84	1.88	16,607,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.55	0.57	126,270,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	600,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.24	0.34	0.24	0.34	6,180,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.48	0.53	0.48	0.52	730,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	60,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.42	0.5	0.42	0.5	110,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	52,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.165	7,920,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.185	0.205	0.185	0.195	5,640,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.245	0.36	0.245	0.34	10,780,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.84	725,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.92	0.94	0.9	0.94	160,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.085	15,100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	330,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.95	1.04	0.92	1.04	85,180,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.28	1.16	1.28	20,532,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.71	0.75	2,070,000
Manila Jockey Club	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.5	349,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37	1,600,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17.25	17.5	17	17	1,187,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.9	9.9	9.6	9.7	1,515,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.39	0.39	12,360,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.205	0.18	0.2	19,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.61	73,800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.96	2.04	1.94	1.96	17,496,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.245	0.26	0.245	0.26	4,410,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.72	0.78	0.72	0.78	630,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.19	2,370,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	222,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	4,060,000
SM Development Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	143,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	3,460,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.12	1.36	1.12	1.32	2,900,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.14	1.52	1.14	1.26	881,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	14,100,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.8	7.8	7.4	7.5	482,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.5	9.7	9.5	9.7	152,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	4.1	4.5	4.1	4.5	204,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.41	0.42	0.4	0.42	8,770,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.46	0.47	0.45	0.47	15,420,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	56,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.032	0.033	0.031	0.032	242,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.007	0.0055	0.007	2,260,000,000
Philex Mining Corp A	1.16	1.18	1.12	1.18	1,595,000
Philex Mining Corp B	1.44	1.44	1.38	1.42	4,142,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	44.5	49	44.5	49	4,440,600
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	700,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	33,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	180,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	71,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.37	0.4	0.36	0.39	1,240,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.37	0.37	260,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	9,200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.135	0.115	0.12	28,590,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	90,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	11,107,050	264,077,390.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,171,903,870	1,233,055,325.00
PRO	139,666,000	135,503,310.00
Mining	2,612,386,600	259,841,810.00
OIL	333,380,000	6,658,550.00
GRAND TOTALS :	4,268,443,520	1,899,136,385.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	626.24	UP 5.82
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,202.48	UP 57.04
PRO	859.26	DOWN 14.19
Mining	3,811.26	UP 67.70
OIL	3.06	UP 0.20
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,205.70	UP 9.46
Composite	2,084.50	UP 23.02

NO. OF ADVANCES: 96; NO. OF DECLINES: 20; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES 153; NO. OF TRADES: 8,015

DISCLOSURES

A. BROWN Co. Inc. bought 10,000 BRN shares last Feb. 10 at 70 centavos per share. Also, on Feb. 11 the board of directors of the company approved a P17.5 million investment in a corporation to be formed which will engage in the business of mining and related activities. They also appropriated the sum of P10 million to buy back shares.

* * *

ELECTED to the board of directors of **Uniwide Holdings Inc.** were Jimmy Gow, Cherrie Gow, Carolyne Gow-Yap, Primitivo "Primy" Chua, Philip Sigfrid Fortum and Salvador Hababag.

* * *

MAKATI Finance Corp. disclosed the resignation of Chia Yan Heng as director of the company.

* * *

THE LISTING of 200,000 common shares of **Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp.** is set on Feb. 15. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

Valentine Day

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

FEB. 14 is a very special day for me as it is also our 8th wedding anniversary. Being in financial planning, I decided that it was a good day to get married, not for romantic reasons but simply because I only had to take my wife out once a year instead of twice. And as all the expensive restaurants would have been booked up weeks in advance, we invariably ended up in McDonalds. However, this year is different. With the stock market booming, I told her she could choose any restaurant so she will be leaving at 7 p.m. Unfortunately, I cannot accompany her, as I have to write this article. I hope she has cash because last week I cut up all her credit cards. We spent 20 happy years in the Philippines until we met.

I told her this morning that she was wearing her wedding ring on the wrong finger. "That's because I married the wrong man," she said. "How about some action tonight." "Over my dead body," she replied. "Oh well, same as usual."

Being a devoted Catholic, her mother was appalled to find a diaphragm in her handbag. She had a hard time convincing her that it was a bathing cap for her cat. "Can my mother come down for the weekend?" she asked. "I suppose so," I said. "She's been sitting on the roof for two weeks."

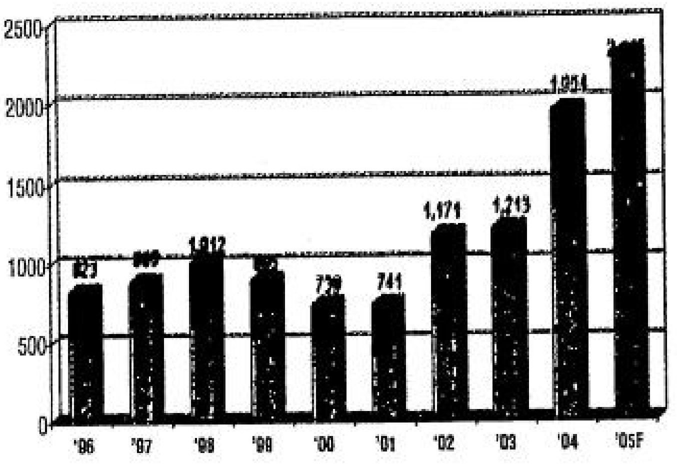
I was astonished to read that some of the doctors in our leading hospitals earn only P8,000 a month. No wonder, the Chief Surgeon has applied for a nursing job in Canada. My doctor is working part-time as a taxi driver or taxidermist, and my daughter's pediatrician, who has little patients, is working in a call center at night. Shouldn't we give them a tax refund or something? How can they pay the increased VAT when they don't issue receipts?

* * *

I THOUGHT the stock market would quieten down this week, but it did not. The PHISIX continues to make 5-year highs daily as foreign brokers poured P400 million into our tiny stock market and a great deal more into our currency (now well below 55). For the first time since Moses, foreigners actually want to invest here. It is all thanks to the Supreme Court for allowing foreign participation in our mineral resources. Communist threats to kill the miners are counter-productive and the government must protect them and their families.

There is a PSE seminar on Feb. 21, and a number of important speakers will be there. Ahead of this, mining shares have been recovering. Property shares have been in demand and AC and ALI have made new highs ahead of their results. They had better have to live up to analysts' expectations. FLI, ELI, C&P are all booming, and MEG rose sharply on the news that it was spending P3 billion on new cyber-tech buildings. Demand from call centers is driving this market.

Today is the beginning of the dividend season, but unfortunately, the results will be ancient history by next week. The Manila Water IPO got off to a slow start, but is now at least twice oversubscribed with half the brokers still to send in their reservations. So it should still be all right even if the price is P6.50.



I have still not seen the huge P17-billion SM Investment prospectus. Perhaps Macquarie might send me one. I thought the price had been fixed at P230 but there are still some details to be worked out. Maybe the price will be changed to P100-P500 a share. That will be fun. One day, an IPO will be just oversubscribed and everyone who applied will be stuffed at the top of the range. There will be no buyers and the price will fall steadily. That will be the end of this guessing-game system. They tried it in London 30 years ago, and it was a disaster. Would you go into a restaurant and order a set meal knowing that the price was at the management's discretion?

My target for Semirara was just over P50 and it touched P52 on the first 2 days so my subscribers got out with a 40-percent profit. It has since been subject to profit taking, mainly by one foreign broker, but ING has been accumulating the stock steadily at declining levels and it closed on Friday at P44. At this level, I told subscribers to BUY and our Research Department has a 1-year target of P58.

I do not think the dispute over a piece of land far from the mine is a major cause for concern. The current mine has a life of 10-13 years, and the second mine has not even been evaluated properly because it will not be operating for a long time. A tenth of this land was taken away from the owner as he failed to pay his dues. Later, he decided to pay the arrears and the penalties in an attempt to recover it. At best, he has a weak case and the directors of Semirara do not think he has a case at all. He wants to talk to the company to claim some compensation. I don't blame him for trying and I doubt that Semirara will want it dragged through the courts for years. So I feel that a settlement is likely.

Far more important is the price of coal. As I wrote last week, although there is no quantitative relationship between the prices of oil and coal, they both follow the same trend. The days of $22-$28 a barrel for oil have ended and with global demand increasing, the new range is $40-$50, especially that the dollar has taken over from the peso as the worst performing currency in the galaxy.

Coal prices are at record levels and I am enclosing a graph showing the coal price over a long period of time. Coal prices are likely to remain high for the next 2-3 years, which is as far as anyone can reasonably predict. The P/E ratio at P36 was 4.5, not 6, and which I purposefully wrote as I like to be conservative. So at P44, the P/E ratio is only 5.5. Since I wrote this article on Sunday, the price has jumped to P49. I do not own any shares as I failed to get an allotment.

It appears that common sense prevails at last and investors who held UCC before the P6 bid will be included after all. I have been fighting for this in several articles and the SEC finally had a change of heart. People who bought after the bid are excluded, which is as it should be. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

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MLA POLO	2.2M	WACK WACK	Call now	WACK WACK	6M

PARTIAL AVAILABLE [illegible]

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CANLUBANG	50,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
RIVIERA GCC	10,000	WACK WACK	[illegible]

TERE TABUENA, LYRA, FRANCO DEL ROSARIO
[illegible]

Vibrant economy . . .

From page B1

The recent positive momentum, Buenaventura said, was not just by chance nor determined by astrologers.

"It has clearly shown that our sound economic management is working," Buenaventura said.

"This is quite evident as we achieved a more broad-based economic growth in 2004 and note, the strongest in 15 years. We have regained control over our public finances anchored on strict fiscal discipline," he said.

He noted that the Philippines had attracted robust capital inflows from investors and remittances from overseas Filipino workers that had led to the highest ever foreign exchange reserve level.

But on the question of sustainability, Buenaventura said there was a need to further strengthen the financial system, particularly the capital markets.

He noted that the country's savings-to-gross-domestic-product ratio was low at only 21 percent while its Asian neighbors were attaining an average of 38 percent..He also lamented that the depth of the country's financial system was shallow compared to the region.

"The need to further strengthen our financial system, hinged on a healthy banking system and a well-functioning capital market, is a pre-requisite in laying out one of the strong foundations for realizing sustained growth and development for our country in the long-term," Buenaventura said.

"A healthy banking system with a deep capital market can effectively and efficiently mobilize savings and distribute these to growth-enhancing investment projects. In essence, a robust financial system will make an economy less vulnerable to expectations that a financial crisis will happen in view of real economic disturbances and more resilient when a financial crisis does actually occur," he said.

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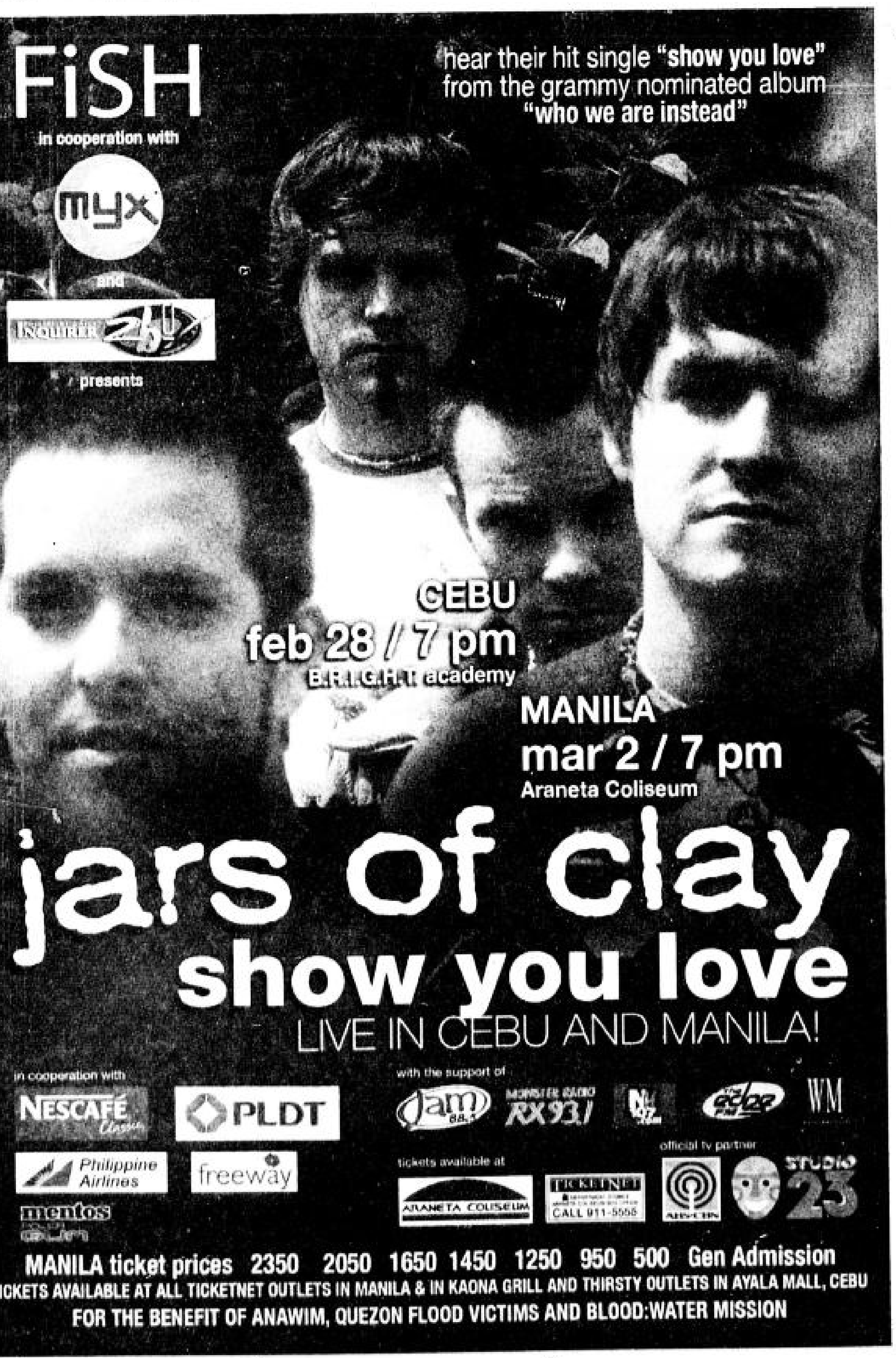

Toyota auto parts exports seen to hit $420M this year

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOCAL group of Toyota companies and suppliers expect combined auto parts export revenue to rise 9.4 percent to $420 million this year as Toyota Motors Philippines Corp. yesterday reaffirmed its commitment to produce vehicles and parts in the country with the launch of a new model.

TMPC data showed that the Toyota group shipped out a total of $384 million worth of auto parts to affiliates all over the world, an increase of 3 percent from $373 million in 2003.

In 2004, the group accounted for 27 percent of total Philippines automotive exports, according to the company.

The group includes Toyota Autoparts Philippines and the Toyota supplier network composed of small and medium-scale enterprises that produce vehicle component parts and employ a total of 12,000 workers.

Combined investments in factory and logistic facilities have reached P19.2 billion as of end-2004 while P52 billion in customs duties and taxes have been paid for since Toyota was reestablished in the country in 1988.

Also yesterday, TMPC officials announced that the firm had started production of the first left-hand-drive units of its new multi-purpose vehicle called Innova at the firm's plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

TMPC president Nobuharu Tabata said during the launching rites that the Innova, touted as the "worthy successor of our all-time bestseller Tamaraw Revo," was the second model in Toyota's new IMV (innovative international multipurpose vehicle project) line up.

Tabata explained that the first IMV model was the new Hi-Lux pick-up that was launched last December.

"Being the industry leader, we have a major responsibility in terms of the (country's) economy," he said. "By continuing to build our bread-and-butter model in this country, we are living up to out commitment to be an active partner in industrial development."

Tabata said further the Innova would also be built in several other countries with components from all over Asia.

"Therefore, there is a great opportunity for our local suppliers as they have many potential customers worldwide aside from TMPC at home."

A mini-van, the Innova would have a seating capacity of eight, "a new body style with larger body size and advanced design, and new advanced interior and exterior features."

Also, the new vehicle would use a new platform designed for higher gear transmission, new frame and suspension, and newly developed engines.

TMPC chair George SK Ty said the firm expected the Innova to "bolster our position as the No. 1 automotive company in the country."

With a 33.2-percent share of the local market in 2004, TMPC topped sales in passenger cars, commercial vehicles and the overall category.

iBank '04 earnings up

INTERNATIONAL Exchange Bank (iBank) said its unaudited 2004 net income hit P522.6 million, 20.7 percent up from P433 million in 2003.

This is equivalent to earnings per share of P1.94 in 2004, 16.9 percent higher than the P1.66 earned in 2003.

The increase in earnings came at the back of a 19.4-percent increase in iBank's total assets to P52.4 billion from P43.9 billion in 2003. Total loan portfolio went up by 20.3 percent to P21.7 billion while deposits were 10.2 percent higher, ending 2004 at P39.5 billion from P35.8 billion a year earlier.

For the year, the bank provided P265.5 million in in additional provisions for probable losses. This and the increased loan portfolio brought down its net nonperforming loans ratio to 7.8 percent from 11.2 percent in 2003.

Palace names adviser for entrepreneurship

CONCEPCION

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo appointed RFM CEO and president Jose Ma. "Joey" Concepcion III presidential consultant for entrepreneurship.

Concepcion's appointment to that post is in line with the government's efforts to partner with the private sector in synergizing major programs in the country, among which is entrepreneurship.

Concepcion said "entrepreneurship is the vehicle that will spur better business climate in the country and bring back the dignity and confidence of the Filipinos."

Concepcion, who will serve as pro-bono presidential consultant, envisions a purely private sector-funded movement that will work to mainstream and synergize major entrepreneurship programs and projects of various schools, NGOs and private corporations.

"What we need is a concerted approach to our entrepreneurship development campaign. There are numerous programs around the country that are theoretically and operationally sound; we just need to put ourselves together under a common advocacy banner so we can create the massiveness needed to create national impact," Concepcion said.

"While we are experiencing today a seeming economic lift - with our peso and the stock market performing well; a lot of work from different sectors still need to be put in place in order for these macro-economic good news to be translated into more businesses established and more employment made available for Filipinos; Entrepreneurship is undoubtedly the way to go," he added.

Host communities to validate mining firms' 'social license'

By Fidel V. Ramos
Former President of the Republic of the Philippines

PERSPECTIVE

The Philippine Mining Industry at a Glance

Gross production value	P 42 billion (US$ 764)
GDP Contribution	1.52 %
Value-added contribution	P 18 billion (US$ 327 million)
Value of mineral exports	US$ 638 million
Exports Contribution	1.8 %
Direct Employment	104,000
Wages and Benefits	P 4 to P 4 billion (US$ 73 to 91 million)
Taxes and Fees	P 2.1 billion (US$ 38 million)
Multiplier Effect	For each mining job, 4 to 10 additional jobs upstream and /or downstream created

THE PHILIPPINE Mining Act of 1995 was hailed by the industry itself as a landmark in mining legislation, comparable with the world's best policies and practices in the context of sustainable development.

Today, metals are being traded at their highest in a decade, as China and India—together with all the other states that have abandoned the social model of development—enter the global minerals and energy market. The confidence in our mining industry was reported by the Philippine delegation which visited China two weeks ago and came home with investment pledges worth $1.3 billion. The delegation under Chamber of Mines of the Philippines president Philip Romualdez deserves our highest commendations.

Politically, socially sensitive

Having said all these, I must also say that you who are involved in mining should use judiciously this new lease on life the Philippine mining sector has gained.

The Supreme Court has given the industry a fresh legal license. But only the local communities where mining companies operate can validate your "social license."

As you all know as well as I do, mining is a politically- and socially-sensitive industry in the Philippines, as most everywhere else.

Philippine mining firms have often been censured for altering the land uncaringly, and generating mine waste and pollutive tailings. Many people are probably not aware that modern mining is being undertaken in developed and highly environmentally conscious-countries, with great success at reconciling economic interests with the dictates of environmental protection, social upliftment and safety-consciousness.

The advent of modern technologies has, indeed, enabled the industry to adopt clean approaches through best mining practices. The technology and practice of rehabilitating mined-out areas towards post-mining productive land use is now well-established. Well-known examples are the protection forests in Australia and Canada; the housing, sports and recreational community havens in Malaysia and Thailand, and the tourist resorts in the United States.

We must put local residents on our side by making them understand what 21st century mining is all about, how it benefits a country and its people and, most important, that it can be protective of the environment even as it promotes socio-economic progress. Mining companies must also realize that miners are not plain toilers beneath the ground but are also a socially responsive breed of men and women who are willing to take the perilous path so that others may live. Remember the devastating earthquake of July 1991, in Central and Northern Luzon where the courage of our miners helped save those who were buried under tons of concrete and steel in Baguio City? One survivor said of the miners, "they were Godsent!"

The Philippine mining industry is, therefore, confronted with this multi-faceted challenge which has crucial political, social, cultural, environmental and economic aspects. For as long as people see with their naked eyes only the unmitigated impact of mining, for as long as headlines banner nothing more than the misery caused by pollutive mining and mining disasters, no amount of economic gains can justify the cultural, social and political costs of extracting minerals out of Mother Earth.

The Philippine Mining Act of 1995 laid down the legal policy framework of sustainable mineral resources development. In simplest terms, its mandate is clear: pursue mineral resources development as one option for economic growth, but without compromising the environment. It is, basically, a "balancing act" to ensure that mining stays a sound, acceptable development option that is both pro-people and pro-environment.

By providing for structures, systems, funds and procedures necessary to ensure the protection of the environment during and after mining, the law strengthened the cause of environmental protection. By providing the mechanisms and commitments to protect the rights of indigenous peoples and bring the benefits from mining down to the local people and communities, it can be transformed into a more socially-responsive and culturally acceptable Weapon of Mass Upliftment (WMU).

Integrating with local communities

By involving communities and nongovernment organizations (NGOs) in decision-making through mandatory consultations and monitoring activities, the mining industry can give flesh to people empowerment. And by requiring stronger financial qualifications, it has shut the door of mining business to irresponsible speculators, contractors, and fly-by-night operators.

Under the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has been strengthened by transforming it from a staff to a line agency, precisely to provide the industry with a highly responsible, accountable and competent agency. This bureau, however, is both a friend and a watchdog of the industry, keeping in mind that the enforcement of the law is still its first and foremost duty.

In the final analysis, however, it is you of the industry, who will make the difference. At bottom, the best expression of commitment to people's welfare and environmental protection is not by beautiful promises, but by obligating your funds and applying your expertise to where they should be on the ground in order to ensure the equitable distribution of benefits. Then, probably, we would see the last of the disasters.

And if the mining industry is to be seen in a better light, it should not descend on a mining site like a predator.

It must integrate itself into the local community. It must commit itself to the local community. Not only must the mining company work to increase its positive effects on the local people; it must overcome any negative aspects on the community. Only by so doing can it build its own credibility and profitability, and the community's trust and respect. It must ensure that the infrastructure it builds—or brings in to facilitate its operations—gets to benefit the community as well. Most important of all, mining people must have a care for community values, traditions and culture.

Beyond that, the company must involve local officials, local notables, local workpeople, local suppliers—as far as it can—in decision-making where their group interests are involved. At every stage, the company should consult with sectoral leaders. In what it does, it should be sensitive to the impact its coming to the community is certain to have.

And the manner of its leaving will be just as important as the manner of its arrival. Every company should leave its site with the environment capable of regenerating itself—and the local people more empowered—because of the skills-training and capacity-building lessons they had learned during your stay with them.

In the new regime of mineral resources development, sustainable mining should guarantee several "high returns on investments."

Competitive edge

First is the sustainability of mining as a business. The impositions of sustainable mining will render marginal mineral deposits uneconomical to mine. Only large, high-quality deposits able to absorb the social and environmental cost of mining would pass the grade. Fortunately, we are left with prime deposits able to support long-term, high-profit operations. These are the kind of operations that should attract capital investments.

Second is the sustainability of mining as an environmentally responsible industry. Within the ambit of sustainable mining, the mining contractor is afforded the opportunity to share in the noble cause to protect, enhance and conserve/save our planet earth for the enjoyment of all mankind. This is an opportunity that every man and woman has to appreciate and cherish, for it concerns his and her very survival. That opportunity is now within the grasp of the industry.

Third is the sustainability of mining as a benefactor of communities. Long-term, high-profit mining operations are in a unique position to help the social and cultural development of communities, while still maintaining economic viability.

Fourth is the sustainability of mining as a nation-builder. Long-term, high-profit mining translates into higher revenues for government, more decent jobs for the work force, more raw materials available to feed the engines of downstream and allied industries, and improved chances of human resource and countryside development by creating self-reliant communities away from urban centers.

All these factors lead to enhanced political stability. Thus, with mining as a dependable option of development, a grateful government and people can do no less than give it full support. In effect, sustainable mining contributes greater socio-economic, cultural and political relevance to the industry's own viability and survival and, more importantly, to nation-building and sustainable development.

Winning the future

To summarize, the wheels of development have to move fast-forward, in the light of the twin challenges of fighting poverty and being competitive in the global economy. The government is putting in place the best available development policy options, and in partnership with the private sector, is committed to implementing these options so that our people can win a better future.

Against a fragile and finite environment, it is sustainability that holds the key. To put in place the sustainable kind of mining to which we aspire, leaders in both the public and private sectors should take the middle ground where both production and protection goals are balanced, and where parties in interest come to terms for their mutual benefit.

With the legal policy framework for sustainable mineral resources development already laid down, the burden of responding with full ardor, dynamism and commitment now shifts to the mining industry. It has to show to the nation and to the world that production and protection goals can jointly be met with great success in a functioning and competitive democracy such as ours for the purpose of improving the quality of life of people.

Not only for mining but for every industry, the time has passed when all that mattered was the "bottom line." In your industry, these social responsibilities are more sharply and more starkly defined than they are in other situations. There are no two ways about it: your investment in a mining area will make that place either palpably better-off or palpably worse-off.

How things turn out will, to a great extent, depend on your decisions, your judgment, and your spirit of community. In the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation (RPDEV) which I chair, all this is what we simply call our caring, sharing and daring for each other, for the community, for the nation, and for Mother Earth. Caring and sharing are easy enough for us to do, because we as a people are naturally friendly, hospitable, compassionate, helpful and even generous.

But daring to give more than to take, daring to contribute to the conservation of the environment than to degrade it, daring to reform and to transform for the common good—these are among the commitments and resolutions that have worked for us Filipinos in the past and will again carry us winningly through the year 2005 and beyond—hopefully, toward a better future.

Whatever be our shared endeavors, we must ensure that these will be undertaken through shared responsibilities, shared burdens, shared values, and shared benefits toward a higher quality of life for all.

T-bill rates slide; 91-day yield at 6.71%

From page B1

diola said in a briefing after yesterday's auction.

Mendiola was referring to the strong performance of the peso against the US dollar, the continued efforts of the Arroyo administration to have its revenue-raising measures passed by Congress, and the delisting of the Philippines from the FATF's list of uncooperative countries in the international community's fight against money-laundering.

He added that the announcement by the FATF, the Paris-based international watchdog, before the weekend would help form a positive opinion by the credit market about the Philippines' resolve to fight money laundering. Government officials also said the country's delisting could also boost its chances of having its credit rating upgraded after recently suffering from a downgrade by ratings firm Standard & Poor's.

Officials attributed the country's delisting from the FATF's list to reforms that tightened the country's regulatory environment to discourage money laundering. The reforms included amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act and the designation of special courts that will specifically hear money-laundering cases.

Aside from the delisting, Mendiola said, the positive movement of interest rates on government securities was partly brought by the confidence of the market on the incumbent leadership of the Treasury.

"We believe that we are getting an implied support (to National Treasurer Norma Lasala) by the market," he said. "We think we finally found a good treasurer."

Mendiola said the Treasury has submitted to Malacañang two resolutions (one from the employees union and the other from the officers) backing Lasala, who is rumored to be replaced by former Citibank official Omar Cruz upon the assumption to office of new Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima. The new finance chief was sworn in yesterday at Malacañang.

How to set up joint ventures for real estate projects

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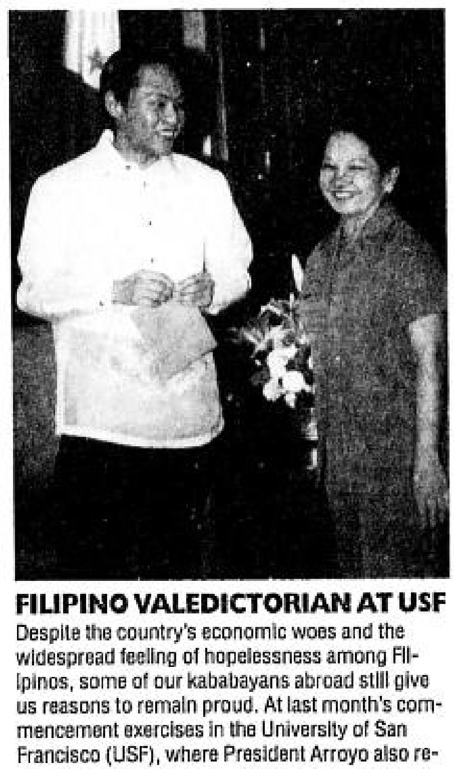

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Product Files

Frico Cheese: A world-class indulgence

YOU can't rush excellent taste and certainly, Frico Cheese, the biggest dairy company in Holland who also makes the best-selling Marca Piña Queso de Bola, has mastered the element of time in the art of creating cheese. No short-cuts for Frico Cheese. Its cheese variants Edam, Gouda and all its processed cheese are guaranteed to have been fully-aged to perfection to achieve the right aroma, shape, color, texture and most importantly, that impeccable Frico Cheese taste! Whether the method involves a couple of weeks or longer, every Frico Cheese is proof of excellence over time. So reward yourself and your family with an authentic Dutch treat with Frico Cheese everyday! Frico, the same company that brought Marca Piña Queso de Bola, is also a National consumer quality awarded as 2004 Top Cheese Brand.

Refresh with C2 Green Tea

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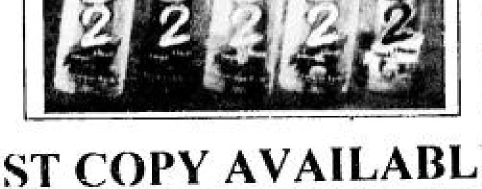

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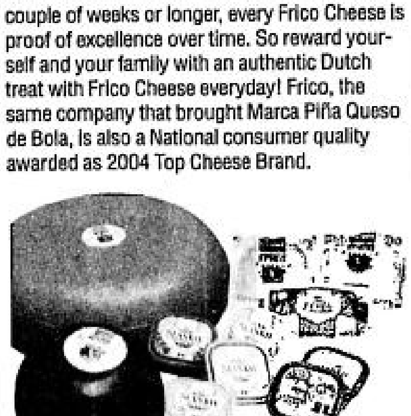

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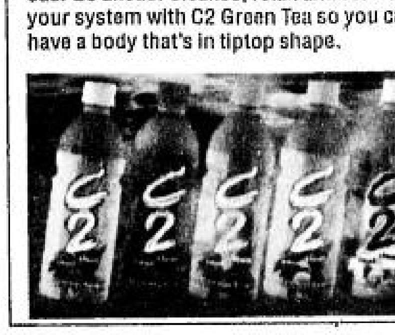

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It's a date at The Podium

MAKE it a date at The Podium this Valentine! Whether shopping for that heartfelt token of affection for that special someone, enjoying an intimate dinner, or simply taking time out to celebrate with family and friends, it's the perfect dating destination. Here are some V-Day tips from The Podium:

Say it with flowers. Whether it's love in full bloom or a budding romance, there's nothing like a fresh flower bouquet to convey your message of love. Holland Tulips will be offering a 10 percent discount on regular tulips .

Wear a love token. The peony is a symbol of love, and a jade peony bracelet or necklace from the World of Feng Shui is said to do wonders in energizing romance.

Say it sweetly. Chocolates are wonder gifts of affection - luscious Belgian chocolates in heart shaped cans from Leonidas, luxuriously rich Valor chocolates from Spain for Terry Selection. Other sweet treats available at The Podium: Delifrance's Chocolate Kiss cake topped with fresh strawberries, Mrs. Field's heart shaped cookies in lovely canisters.

Express your heart's desire. Heart shaped jewelry in the form of charm bracelets, pendants and earrings from Gallery 925 and Goldworks can put the sparkle in any romance. Wildflower by Inky Nakpil has a dazzling selection of Swarovski crystal pieces, which one can customize on shirts, jeans and bags.

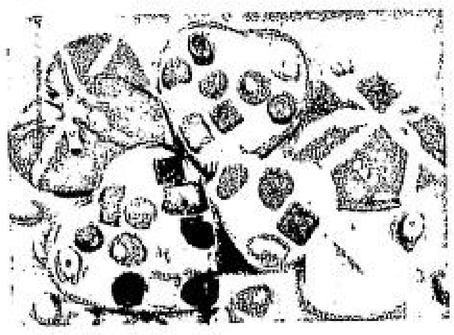
Cast a love spell. Capture romance in a bottle with delightful new fragrances from Watsons - Love and Rose Blush by Calvin Klein's Eternity, Heart by Clinique, and f and 360 Degrees by Perry Ellis. Or pamper yourself with the The Body Shop's sensual Passionfruit line - Body Butter, Body Scrub, Lip Balm, Bath and Shower Gel, Soap and Dry Oil Mist.

Play it cute and cuddly. Giant stuffed toys and pillows with romantic messages from Watsons and personalized puzzle greeting cards from The Jigsaw Shop.

Make it a date at Master's Wok with its Lover's Meal - Crystal Prawns, Beef Tenderloin Chinese Style, Master Wok Roast Combination, Fresh Fruit Plate and Cali Shandy at P999. Another Lover's Meal set includes Fish Fillet Roll, Fried Chicken Peking Style, Dimsum (choice of two), Buchi, and Mango Shake at P699.

Or delight in desserts and movies by dining at Pinoydon. It offers a free Banana Surprise dessert for P150 per head, and free Buko Pandan or Sushi for a minimum purchase of P500. Likewise, one can avail of a P30 discount on cinema tickets for every P150 purchase, and diners who present The Podium cinema tickets will be treated to iced tea or lemonade for every food puchase.

More sweet treats: Cheesecake, etc offers a Valentine's meal (Ham Sandwich, Ghirardelli Almond Rocca Espressor, and their best selling cheesecake) for only P275. Goodies n Sweets, meanwhile will treat its customers to a free cup of coffee for every individual dessert cake ordered, plus a 20 percent discount on salad dressing, nacho chips and foccacia bread.



PDI PHOTO/BETOY JOHNSON

INQUIRER INTERCOLLEGIATE DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP

Now in their fourth year of partnership, the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the University of the Philippines Debate Society renew their commitment to inspiring readership among the youth by promoting debating through the Inquirer Intercollegiate Debating Championship. Shown in photo are members of the UP Debate Society with its president Carl Ng (fourth from left), Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (fourth from right) and Inquirer AVP for strategic marketing communications Celine Madamba (third from right). The 4th IIDC will be held on Feb. 25 to March 1, with the theme, 'Beyond Debate'. This is open to all college students nationwide. For inquiries, contact the Inquirer corporate relations office at 897-8808 local 260.

New bakery process, technology to strengthen bakery industry

DSM Bakery Ingredients of Holland is introducing Fermipan 2n1 which combines yeast leavening and enzyme-based improvement in one product. Fermipan 2n1 and a new chilled dough baking process can transform a bakery into a more manageable operation.

Using Fermipan 2n1 and chilled dough process together, a bakery can now mix any time even the day before baking. The baker can produce hot bread from the chilled dough within two hours from make-up. The premixing with excellent ingredients will also minimize the need for a master baker to monitor the process to ensure good quality bread.

At present, the bakery industry is plagued by problems like lack of qualified master bakers, high cost of labor as well as high ingredient costs. The labor problem is worsened by the long baking process which results into bakers and bakery owners having to work beyond normal hours - waking up early until late. There have been stories of bakery businessmen leaving the industry because of the difficult lifestyle change needed for success.

The chilled dough process was developed in Asia - in Singapore, Taiwan, Japan and China where it is called "leng cáng jì sù (in pinyin) - and is especially favored by small, artisan bakeries because of efficient and convenient operations. In the high-cost countries above, mom-and-pop bakeries using this process thrive with just an assistant or two. The chilled dough process is different from frozen dough in that it works with a simple upright chiller and does not need the more expensive freezers.

The enzyme-based improver works even in the chiller. The convenience benefit comes as the enzymes complete the dough development in the chiller even as the baker is resting. Unlike chemical-based improvers like emulsifiers, enzymes do not suffer from diminishing effectiveness over time and with higher dosage; enzymes continue to function linearly, as long as there is work to be done in the dough.

After mixing and the rounding during slack periods, the baker merely takes the quantity of dough he needed to replenish from the chiller, then makes-up, proofs and bakes hence the shorter turnaround time for producing hot bread in as short as ninety minutes.

To promote these benefits to the bakers, DSM with its partner in the Philippines, the Adsia EuroBakers Group will hold a seminar free of charge at 10 a.m. on Feb. 18 at the Filipino-Chinese Bakery Fair 2005 at the World Trade Center. The seminar will be presented by Alister Ong, senior technical manager of DSM Bakery for Asia. He will also introduce 20 Singaporean and Taiwanese recipes as well as chilled dough application to Filipino favorites.

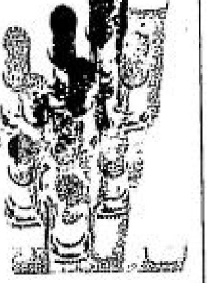
Interested attendees may pre-register at the FCBAI (call 254-2518, Thess Ombao) or Adsia (call 839-2164, Lui Bernales).

'HOW TO MAKE MORE MILLIONS IN SALES'

Training Works, and Optimus Innovations Inc, are offering a popular learning event for sales and marketing managers and professionals, 'How To Make More Millions in Sales'. The one-day event composed of two learning sessions, one for management in the morning and one for sales professionals in the afternoon, will be conducted by international sales trainer and book author, Michael G. Malaghan, on May 4, (Wednesday) at the New World Hotel, Makati City. For more information, contact tel. no. (632) 937-0376. Signing the memorandum of agreement are (seated, from left) Juan 'Babs' Reyes, Optimus Innovations chair and Henry J. Schumacher, Training Works CEO and ECCP executive vice president. Witnessing the signing are (standing, from left) Optimus consultant Cat Sugay, Optimus president Reggie Reyes, and ECCP Marketing Services manager Elaine Garcia-Gatchalian.

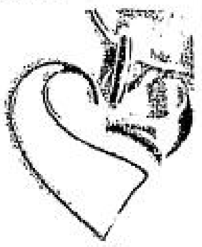
ProductFILES

Lip, live, love on Valentine



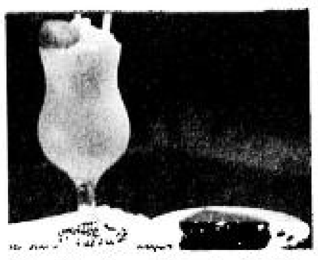
YOUR lips - the most powerful visual link between the world and your body, they symbolize emotion, beauty and love. This Valentine, E. Excel Elemente roundly presents Trulips, a unique line of lip colors that bring both beauty and nourishment to your lips in the sensuous shades glide on smoothly for long-lasting, polished color. Created with a rich blend of ginseng berry, cactus fruit and grape seed extracts, Trulips contains only safe, premium ingredients that you can use with confidence. After all, anything that touches your lips should also be safe for your body, shouldn't it? Trulips is exclusively available through E. Excel International (Phils) Inc. Call 811-0837 for details.

Michelis and the mystery of love



MICHELIS has developed a new collection to represent and interpret love as we all have come to know and pondered upon. The Devotion collection has various pieces to symbolize the various loves we all have felt. Michelis has also re-launched the Philosophies of Love collection which highlight the various faces of love through the marriage of Mother of Pearl, Freshwater pearls and sterling silver in each exquisite peace. Lastly, there is the Hearts collection, where Michelis takes liberty in representing the symbol of the heart by using different combinations of gemstones, freshwater pearls and sterling silver. Visit a Michelis branch near you: The Jewelry, Greenhills Shopping Center; Greenbelt 1; Independent Lifestyles at the Power Plant Mall; the Makati Shangri-la Hotel; the Manila Mandarin Oriental Hotel; Rustan's Alabang Town Center, and Rustan's Tower Shangri-La Plaza. For inquiries, call 723-7510.

Fill your cup of love



FOR the whole month of February, the newly opened Redwood Bar & Restaurant along Tomas Morato will be offering a love treat. Couples and families can sweeten their celebration with the incredibly creamy and frosty Strawberry Shortcake and the Cookie Crusted Choco-Mousse free as a Love-Month treat to couples dining in at Redwood from Feb. 11 to 15. Redwood Bar & Restaurant is located at Unit #6, GF, Creekside Square, #74 Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City and is open everyday from 11 a.m. onwards. For inquiries and reservations, call 413-9999.

Fall in love Japanese style at Sushi-Ya

THIS Valentine season, go Japanese and date your loved ones Sushi-Ya style. For an intimate dinner, Sushi-Ya offers the Sushi-Ya Festival (assortment of sushi and sashimi in a platter) and its filling Bento Meals that include miso soup, rice, California Maki, Agedashi Tofu and your choice of main course.
To complete your romantic interlude, try Sushi Ya's Kami Salad and Wasabi Ice Cream. The restaurant's warm and cozy interior provide an atmosphere perfect romantic gatherings. Visit its branches at Tomas Morato, Libis, Robinson's Place, Robinson's Galleria, SM Megamall and Fiesta Strip in SM Pampanga.

Bankard offers hassle-free online payment

IN TODAY'S frenzied and highly mobile lifestyle, 'paper-less' transactions have become more a necessity than a fad. Recognizing this need, credit card industry pioneer Bankard Inc offers a convenient online payment facility via its website at www.bankard.com.

By accessing the website, holders of Bankard MasterCard, Bankard Visa, Bankard JCB or myDream JCB can view their statement of account and pay for their bills online hassle-free.

"This is part of the 'rewards' of being a Bankard cardholder," remarked Irene Taylo, marketing and sales group head. "It's the invaluable benefit of being able to check your outstanding balance and available credit and settling your card dues within the comfort of your home or office. This is Bankard's way of responding to its cardholders' ever-changing needs given today's high-tech environment," she said.

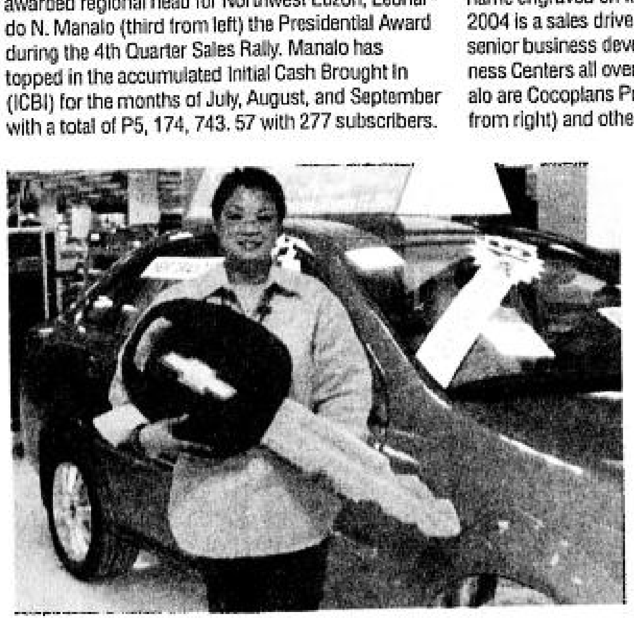
With just the click of a mouse, a Bankard cardholder can do practically any transaction involving his account - whether it be simply statement viewing, or bills payment, or even balance transfer, Taylo explained. "Essentially, it's offering all the conveniences of using a Bankard credit card," she added.

As if these convenient features are not enough, Bankard enables cardholders to settle their dues without having to open an account with just one bank. Since Bankard's online payment service is powered by BancNet Online, its cardholders can pay for their bills by maintaining an account with any BancNet-member bank, Taylo explained.

What's more, the same website offers other 'easy' features such as online application, enrollment in e-statement via e-mail service, and access to Bankard's latest promos and product offerings, Taylo said.

COCOPLANS AWARDS TOP REGIONAL HEAD

Cocoplans continues to recognize excellence as it awarded regional head for Northwest Luzon, Leonardo N. Manalo (third from left) the Presidential Award during the 4th Quarter Sales Rally. Manalo has topped in the accumulated Initial Cash Brought In (ICBI) for the months of July, August, and September with a total of P5, 174, 743. 57 with 277 subscribers. He received the prestigious Presidential Cup with his name engraved on it. The Presidential Award for 2004 is a sales drive that is also open to Cocoplans' senior business development managers and Business Centers all over the country. In photo with Manalo are Cocoplans President Caesar Michelena (third from right) and other regional heads.



METRO MARKET! MARKET! WINNER

First winner of Metro's Wish Upon A Car Raffle Promo is Teresita dela Rosa of 6952 Rosa St., Makati City. Techie as she's fondly called is a sales manager of Delta Chemical Trading, mother of two girls, Nicole and Phoebe Ann, and married to Rolando dela Rosa. Metro Market! Market! A newly opened department store and supermarket at Fort Bonifacio Global City is giving away 12 units of Chevrolet Optra brand new and tax free until Feb. 26.

VP NOLI DE CASTRO, INSPECTS PAG-IBIG PROJECT IN CEBU

Vice President Noli 'Kabayan' de Castro, concurrent Chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), together with heads of the key shelter agencies was in Cebu to inspect housing projects and consult with housing stakeholders about various housing issues. He is shown inspecting the project La Aldea Prima Mactan in Lapu-Lapu City. The project, which is funded with a P250 million loan under the Pag-IBIG City Program will provide some additional 550 low-cost housing units for Cebu residents when completed. Shown in photo (from left) are Richard Lim, president, Johndorf Ventures and project developer; Kabayan; Benjamin Gonzalo Bongolan, president, Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC); lawyer Romero F.S. Quimbo, president and CEO, Pag-IBIG Fund and lawyer Romulo Q. Fabul, Commissioner and CEO, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB).

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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID NPC-MMSD 2005-003

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements.

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No./Inquiry No.	ABC
I	March 2, 2005 10:00 A.M. Pahiyas Room	Oil Containment Boom for PB 106	PB050201-MMAD2415 (PB2)	1,250,000.00
II		Turbocharger, IHI for PB 120	PB050111-MMSB2319 (PB2)	3,000,000.00
III		Mechanical Parts for PLDPP-Mindoro/Romblon Area "Enterprise"	PB050302-MMVB2547	7,138,353.00
IV	March 2, 2005 2:00 P.M. Pahiyas Room	Hauling of Diesel Fuel Oil from Shell Tabangao Depot Batangas to Pulang Lupa DPP Occ. Mindoro	PB050302-MMKR2548	4,800,000.00
V	March 3, 2005 10:00 A.M. Kañao Room	Lubricating Oil 15W, SAE 40 multigrade for PLDPP Mindoro/Romblon Area	PB050303-MMER2549	360,000.00
VI		Lubricating Oil Multigrade SAE 15W-40 for MONL Operations Division	PB050303-MMER2550	3,828,000.00
VII		Lubricating Oil, Multigrade, 15W40 for OM-Mindoro/Romblon Area	PB050303-MMER2551	7,320,000.00
VIII		Lubricating Oil SAE 15W-40 for Catanduanes/Masbate/Albay Optns. Div.	PB050303-MMER2552	6,460,000.00
IX	March 3, 2005 2:00 P.M. Kañao Room	Lubricating Oil, Caltex Delo 500 for Equiv. for Pulang Lupa & Tablas DPP	PB050303-MMER2553	4,550,000.00
X		Lubricating Oil, Marine SAE 50 for Marinawa DPP	PB050303-MMER2554	1,600,000.00
XI		Lube Oil for High Speed Automotive Diesel Engine for SAE 15W-40 for OM-Palawan Division	PB050303-MMER2555	3,458,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
Schedule V-XI	Feb. 17, 2005	2:00 P.M.	Moriones Function Room
Schedule I-IV	Feb. 17, 2005	3:00 P.M.	Moriones Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept., of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 924-5357/924-5477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP500.00 per schedule starting on February 8, 2005, from 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. only. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by PSD/MMSD will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee – One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) LORENZO S. MARCELO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI – February 8 & 15, 2005)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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Toyco U Drive w/ Driver All Kinds Cars Van Revo Dly. Wk.Mo. Rental 8023021-22

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

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CAR LOAN

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 6567685

2% w/out taking car 5316577

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Futsu International Corporation,** a corporation duly organized and existing under the law of the Republic of the Philippines with principal office and place of business at Ngilay Road, Tambler, General Santos City.

By virtue of a resolution duly approved unanimously by its Board of Director, January 13, 2005 decided to dissolve its term of existence on February 28, 2005.

Any person, natural or juridical who may have money, claims or otherwise against said corporation may present or file the same with the secretary of the corporation within the three (3) weeks from the date of the publication.

Let this notice be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the whole country for the three (3) consecutive weeks prior to its dissolution.

(Sgd.) Lin-Chen, Jen-Shiu
President

(PDI-Feb. 9, 15 & 21, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Exp. WELDERS, apply personally BARRON ENGINEERING SUPPLIES 517 Protacio St. Pasay City Tel# 888-9098 / 884-8338

FEMALE

SECRETARY 721-5055 721-2797 / 843-3548

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

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Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mol 8922818

CAREGIVER T4043528

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Tel.# 7231322 / 09169715230

Wanted: Lic Med-Tech 746-1537

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Cash purchases only.
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DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA

• LAS PIÑAS

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas;
Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024

• MAKATI

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel 894-5932 to 34

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City;
Tels 890-3556; 899-8191

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City;
Tels. 895-1011 to 19

MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City;
Tel 890-63-18

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City;
Tel. Nos. 843-6838/30; Fax No. 843-9223

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284

• MALABON

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels 2812963, 2813034; 2810522

• MANDALUYONG

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City;
Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

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DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125, 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827

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2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila;
Tel Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839

ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772

UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila;
Tels 493-4458, 493-4540

WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila;
Tel. 302-5447

• MARIKINA

ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City;
Tels 942-6044, 475-1177

F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels 646-1725 or 646-1730

LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3198 to 98, 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577

PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730

• PARAÑAQUE

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Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City;
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Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque;
Tels 820-1592, 825-9947; 825-8635

LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor.
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Parañaque, Metro Manila

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220

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RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-1204

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Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1801; 845-4835

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C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
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FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City;
Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735

• QUEZON CITY

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031; 715-1027

LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kakraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05

NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
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298 Quezon Ave., Quezon City. Tels. 372-5084; 410-8286/87

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M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602

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Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila;
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LIGÑON HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Bugtong Road, Legaspi City;
Tels. (052) 820-0188, 0917-2074152

• BACOLOD

ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan,
Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132

• BAGUIO

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
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• BULACAN

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Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603

• CAVITE

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145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels.
(046) 471-3375; 471-2675

LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite.
Tels. (046) 471-3386, (046) 471-4417, (046) 571-1976

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CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
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2020 Brgy. Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tels (049) 837-5652; 531-4142;
Fax (049) 531-4589

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Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels (049) 562-1668, 800-2914 Cel. No. (0917) 5016963

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FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
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No. 8 Cangma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782; 697-0026, 650-7426;
Fax 697-2764

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Gulinang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal, Tels 649-5949, 942-4460

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(047) 222-4512, (047) 224-2014

OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo
Tel. No. (047) 223-1692

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
City of Iligan
OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

February 2, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Iligan, thru the Bids and Awards Committee invites interested suppliers, distributors and/or manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

	PARTICULARS	ABC
A.	PR No. 286 for 243 cu.m. Ready Mix Concrete fc'4000 Psi at 28 days, etc. (various construction materials) Washed sand, etc. (various construction materials)	P2,203,971.97

Dates for submission of eligibility requirements, pre-bid conference, issuance of bid documents and opening of bids are as follows:

B. Issuance of Bid Documents - February 14, 2005
C. Pre-Bid Conference - March 16, 2005
D. Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids - March 28, 2005
E. Opening of Bids - March 28, 2005

The eligibility check and preliminary examination of bids shall be on non-discretionary "pass fail" criteria. Evaluation of bids and post-qualification shall be in accordance with the applicable provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and are contained in the Bid Documents which can be obtained from the BAC Secretariat, City General Services Office, Buhanginan Hill, Pala-o, Iligan City.

Prospective bidders in need for further information may forward their inquiry to:

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
Thru: BAC Secretariat
CGSO, Buhanginan Hill, Palao
Iligan City
Telephone No. 221-4638/3516759/221-4340

The City Government of Iligan neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) FRANKLIN D. MAATA
City Engineer
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb. 8 & 15, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE
ATI Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1100
Tel. No. (63-2) 928-7397 Fax No. (63-2) 920-9792 E-mail: atida@i-next.net

ATTENTION : ALL ELIGIBLE BIDDERS

SUBJECT : SCHEDULE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF BIDS AND OPENING OF BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 60-SOW LEVEL BUILDING AND A 10-BOAR ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION PENS AT THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTER ON PIG HUSBANDRY (ITCPH), MARAWOY, LIPA CITY

AS PER PROVISION IN SECTION 22.2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184 AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS, THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF BIDS IS ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 23, 2005 AT 1:00 P.M. AND THE OPENING OF BIDS WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW
PAYMENT OF P2,000.00 FOR THE BID DOCUMENTS IS REQUIRED.

GININTUANG MASAGANANG ANI

(Sgd.) DIRECTOR RONALDO M. SALUNGA
Chairperson, ATI BAC III

TRANSCO INKS AGREEMENT WITH VECO

AS PART of government's thrust to implement power sector reforms, the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), through its president Dr. Alan T. Ortiz (left), recently signed its biggest sub-transmission asset divestment agreement to date with the Visayan Electric Co. (Veco) represented by their president Mr. Dennis N.A. Garcia (right). Energy Secretary Vincent S. Perez, Jr. (center) was the guest of honor at the signing ceremony. Dr. Ortiz said this development would benefit the end-consumers through increased reliability of power supply in the area. He added that TransCo's divestment would provide private distribution utilities the opportunity to collect revenues from the operation and maintenance of the lines and give them the incentive to make their system more efficient. TransCo also inked a similar purchase contract worth P15.29 million with Veco's sister company Davao Light and Power Co. (DLPC). As with other divestment contracts, the inspection of sub-transmission assets involved the Commission on Audit to ensure transparency and adherence to sale process guidelines. All contracts must also be duly approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission before implementation.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO THE DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED MUNICIPAL RURAL BANK OF DEL GALLEGO (Camarines Sur), Inc.

1. The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Municipal Rural Bank of Del Gallego Inc. (MRBGI) on Wednesday, February 16, 2005.

2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of MRBGI where they can file their claims with the PDIC representatives from February 16 to March 2, 2005, during office hours, Monday to Friday.

   After the said date, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Claims Counter, 6th Floor, SSS BLDG, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. or by mail to:

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Department
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue
   1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:

   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit, or Bank Statement including Unused Checks.
   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's signature.

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591, as amended by R.A. 9302, the last day for filing claims for insured deposits in the closed Municipal Rural Bank of Del Gallego (Camarines Sur), Inc. is on January 27, 2007. After January 27, 2007, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

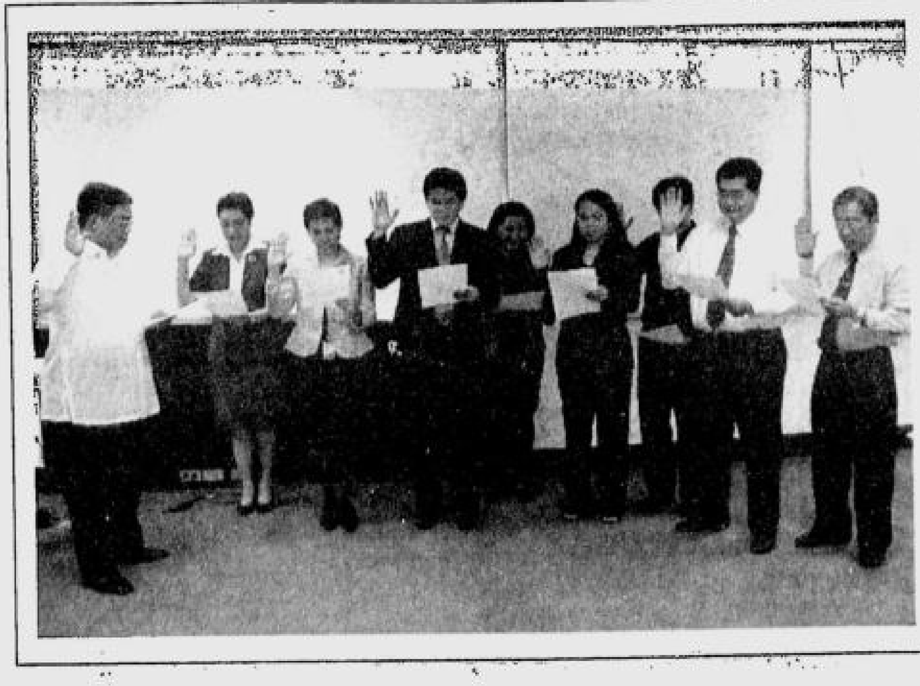
PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI–February 15 & 16, 2005)

Feng Shui export on Up Close and Personal

FENG shui, the ancient Chinese art of using the energies of environment work for you rather than against you, has never been more popular than it is today. Instead of spreading through massive marketing campaigns, the principles gain followers because they have worked for so many people.

The words "feng" and "shui" themselves mean "wind" (feng) and "water" (shui). In Chinese culture, the positive aspects of wind and water are associated with a good harvest and therefore with good health. This way, good feng shui means good fortune and health. This Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 11 p.m. on Up Close and Personal with Marissa Del Mar over IBC 13 will be featuring a feng shui expert Reverend Father Wong Sei Tian, Taoist Grand Minister and author of several Feng Shui books that can be bought from different bookstores nationwide, to help us know what the Year of the Green Wooden Rooster brings to each and one of us...and as we hop around the Chinese community in Binondo Manila in celebration of the Chinese New Year.



MR. NOEL DE LEON (4th from left), Mercer HR Consulting, Inc. President and CEO was sworn in as the new president of the Compensation Management Society of the Philippines (CMSP) by Mr. Nonong Contreras, former President of the Personnel Management of the Philippines (PMAP). CMSP is the country's recognized organization of compensation and benefits professionals. Also in the picture are the other elected CMSP officers: Clarisse Ramos (Metrobank) - Treasurer; Lynette Palma (Watson Wyatt) Ex-Officio; Noel A. De Leon (Mercer HR Consulting) - President; Elizabeth Nasol (San Miguel Corp.) - External Affairs ; Emily Trinidad (Globe Telecom) - Vice President; Daniel de Castro (San Miguel Corp) - Secretary; Met Ganuelas (First Inter Resource Mgmt.) - Internal Affairs/Membership; Mar Galicia (Taaleña Resorts Corp) - Special Projects

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region VI Western Visayas
DepED THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
Division of Capiz
Villareal Stadium, Roxas City

February 15, 2005

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

To All Qualified Bidders

1. The government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines for procurement under Japan Bank for International Cooperation Loans.
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Fabrication, Supply and Delivery of 176 pcs. Pre-stressed Concrete Piles, 0.40 x 0.40 x 14.5 m** required for the Construction of One (1) Unit-Two Storey Division Office Building of DepEd-Division of Capiz at Banica, Roxas City.
3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the **Department of Education, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat** with address at **DepEd-Division of Capiz, Villareal Stadium, Roxas City** for a non-refundable fee of **Php 750.00** for each set from **February 16, 2005 to March 16, 2005.** Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education, Division of Capiz, Villareal Stadium, Roxas City on or before **March 16, 2005, 10:00 A.M.**
5. A pre-bid conference will be held to clarify all queries, and questions, on **March 3, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.** at the same address.
6. The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids which may found disadvantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) IRMA M. GANELA
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – February 15, 2005)

PNB, CREATIVE RESTAURANTS, INC. INK LOAN AGREEMENT

THE PHILIPPINE National Bank recently granted a term loan for the expansion and operations of Café Adriatico. At the signing ceremony are (seated from left) Creative Restaurants, Inc. senior vice president Eugene Billones, Creative Restaurants, Inc. chairman/president Lorenzo Cruz, PNB First Vice President & Metro Manila Business Centers head Reynaldo Orsolino and PNB Sr. Asst. Vice President & Manila Business Center Head Eric Ylagan. Behind them are PNB Manager Leodegario Tumlos and PNB Account Assistant Romela Aurelio.

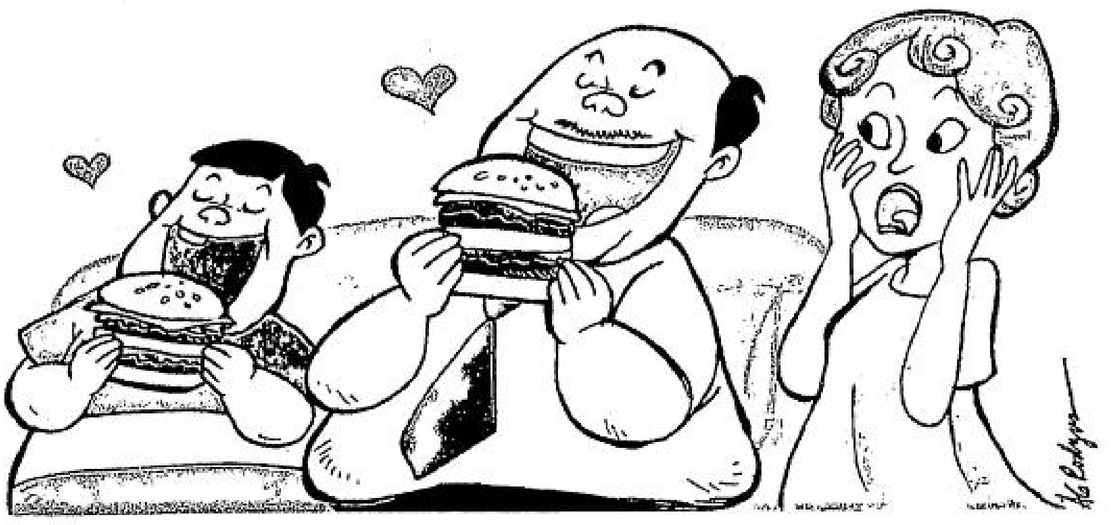
LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

DUNKIN' DONUTS
P35 lang!
LOVE BITES
LOVE

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ◎ TUESDAY **FITNESS** ◎ WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◎ THURSDAY **FOOD** ◎ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

Parents are children's role models



WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

A FILIPINO endocrinologist specializing in obesity among children once said he would have more success with his young patients if not for their parents. This is true. Let me give you just two examples.

Once, I had a client who complained that her overweight 7-year-old son would not stop eating potato chips and other junk food. I asked her, "Who buys him the junk food?" She looked surprised for an instant and then very sheepishly said, "Me!"

I told her if she stopped buying those things, it would be the first step in fighting her child's overweight problem. Not just the salty snacks but also the sweets. She didn't look too happy with this advice and later in the counseling session, I found out why. She and her husband were also "addicted" to the stuff.

Another time, I was a guest on a television show for mothers. The topic was how to prevent obesity in kids. The show's producers arranged for me to talk to a young mother with an overweight 2-year-old.

As I counseled the earnest young mom who was desperate because her toddler was growing bigger by the day, the child was seated beside her munching on potato chips while the *yaya* was letting him sip from a soft drink bottle in between.

Helpless

I almost fell off my chair when the mother said she didn't know why her child was getting so fat. When I pointed out that junk food and soft drinks were making her child obese, she said she couldn't do anything about it because the kid would have tantrums if he didn't get his favorite snacks. And he would also kick and scream if he didn't have chocolate cake or ice cream for dessert every day.

I was totally frustrated when she concluded our interview by saying she didn't believe it was the food that was making him fat but probably his genes because his father was also overweight. In fact, she said, "All my in-laws are overweight."

I found out her husband and his family had the same eating habits as her son. There were obviously deep parenting issues involved. She did not have the courage to go against the eating style of her husband and in-laws and she did not have the will to deal with her toddler's tantrums. It was easier to blame the child's obesity on "genes."

Oh well, I just hoped mothers watching the show were more discerning and learned a thing or two about preventing obesity in their families.

Chip off the old block

These two mothers are exactly what the child obesity specialist was talking about. One reason kids become overweight is because of the eating habits of the parents. Not to mention their exercise habits, too.

Studies indicate that if one parent is overweight, the child has a 40 percent chance of becoming overweight, too. If both parents are overweight, then the possibility of the child's being obese rises to 70 percent. A child whose parents have normal weights only has a 7-percent chance of becoming obese.

Science confirms that people are born with a tendency to be overweight, normal weight or underweight. But having fat genes does not mean obesity is inevitable. Your lifestyle—what you eat and how much exercise you get—will have greater impact on your weight.

Your lifestyle sets the example for your children. A 2003 United States study found that even before the age of 2, children were already eating french fries, candy, soft drinks and salty snacks. The children were not born wanting these foods. Their parents introduced them to these eating patterns.

Starts early

The sad part is, according to dietician Jodie Shield who has written two books on child nutrition, a child's food preferences are generally shaped between ages 2 and 3. A child with unhealthy eating habits becomes an adult who prefers sweets instead of fruits.

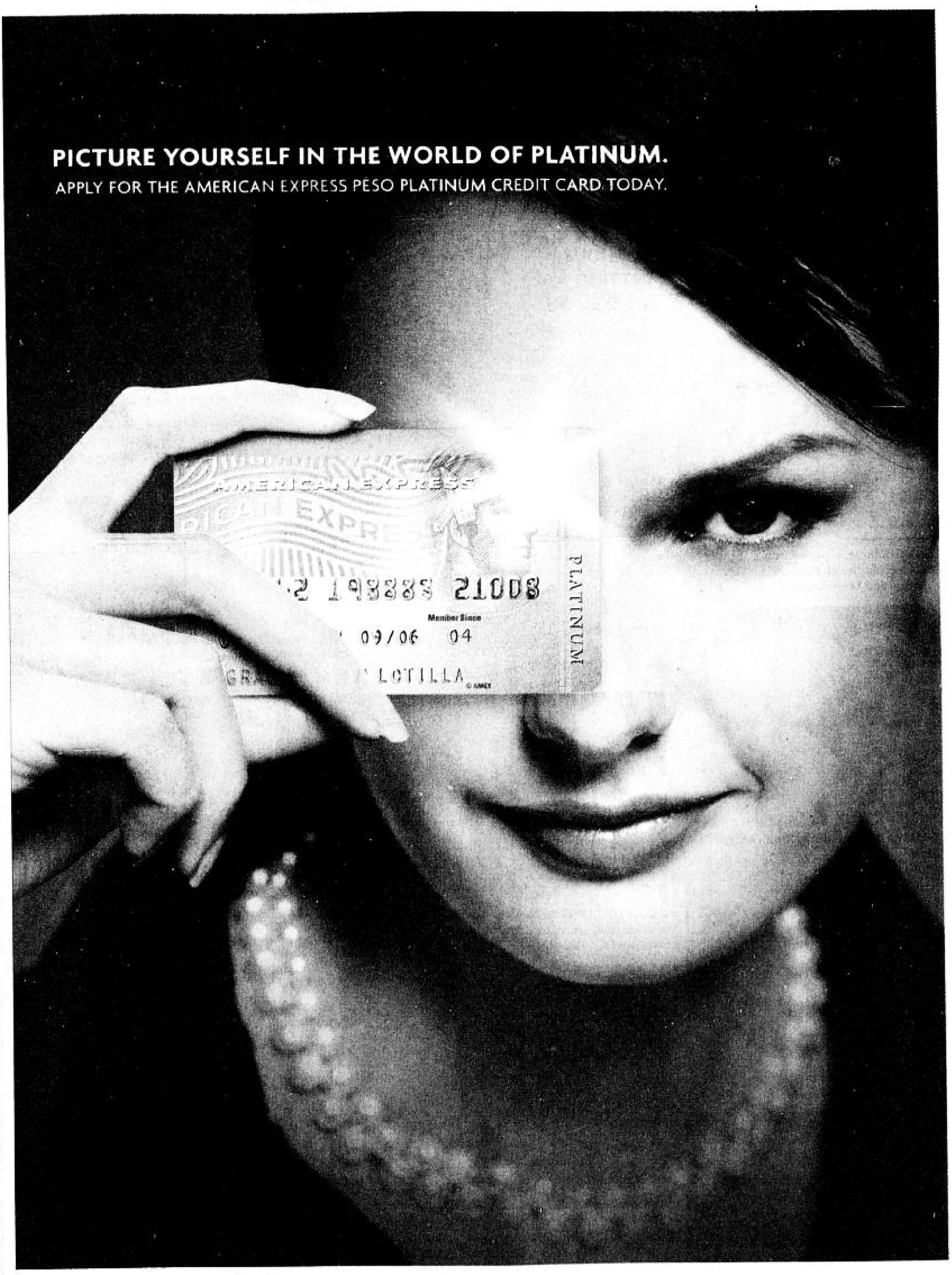
Moral lesson

The moral of the story is if you want your kids to be fit and healthy, you've got to start with yourself. Children follow what you do, not what you say. If you eat junk food, your kids will do the same. If you are a couch potato, chances are your kids will be, too, maybe not right away since most kids are naturally active (thank goodness for Mother Nature).

Here is a practical tip that works (if you are willing to make it work). Do not allow highly processed, high-calorie, low-nutrient food in your house. Both you and your kids will be healthier and slimmer if you do this. I admit that the "bad" stuff tastes good but we can't let our appetites and taste buds destroy our health and the health of our children.

But total deprivation can lead to bingeing and an even greater desire for whatever is

PARENTS/ C4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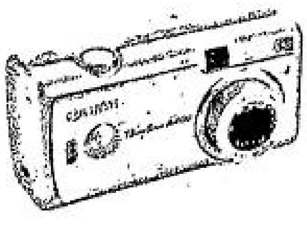

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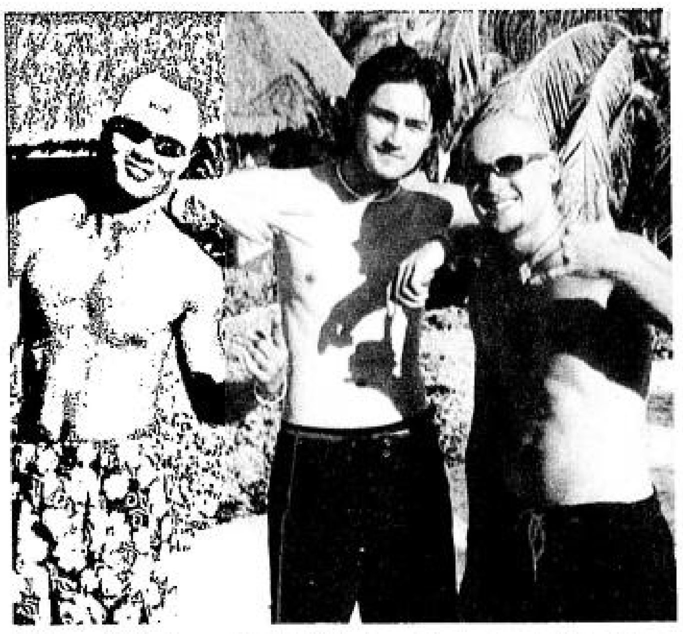
Promo period: 6 February 2005 until 30 April 2005. See brochure for complete details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AI-069, Series of 2005.

AMERICAN EXPRESS

PALAWAN heavenly bodies: Jon Mullaly, Marc Nelson, Andrew Wolf, Paolo Contis and JR Isaac

OH, LA-LA! Gorgeous and talented actresses Alessandra da Rossi and Anne Curtis dig the sun and sand.


LET'S rock. Sun lovers Reginald Mendoza, Logan Goodchild and Ryan Eigenmann

Hot bods, cool products

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare SYSTEM

LUSCIOUSLY clear skins and magnificently toned bodies added to the beauty of breathtaking Club Noah Isabelle in Palawan, as today's hottest and most gorgeous celebrities made their way to the island paradise for the coolest event of the season—the Nivea Aqua Cool Wellness and Adventure Tour.

The four-day Nivea Aqua Cool happening was definitely super charged and tons of fun. It drew the entertainment scene's most handsome and gorgeous celebs, *palanggas*.

Palawan certainly made a magnificent backdrop for the launch of Nivea's super new Aqua Cool deodorant line. Overseeing the exciting event was Nivea's brilliant marketing director **Rica King** and her rah-rah team composed of women with beauty and brains.

The first night had the stars partying in their coolest blue attire and celebrating the unveiling of Nivea Deo Aqua Cool, which provides men with much-needed protection while leaving a feeling of freshness and a cool masculine scent, thanks to the unique "Cool-Care," dahlings.

Having a blast

On the second day, the celebs, divided into teams, had a blast as they participated in exciting games and activities like beach volleyball, which they played while kneeling on the sand making them look like the renowned French painter Toulouse Lautrec.

Next were the wind surfing and water skiing events. When not playing, we walked on the white beach in our colorful, expensive, so "in" Havaianas flip flops, no less.

In the evening we had a chill-out bash. The beautiful people had a blast sipping their Skyy Vodka, Amarula, Jagermeister and Alize, from Premier Wines and Spirits.

The following morning's agenda included an exhilarating game of frisbee, snorkeling, kayaking and fishing for nature enthusiasts. At dusk, the beach was transformed into a big party place for the awarding ceremony for the tour.

Witty and funny

Hosts were **Richard Gomez** and witty **Joey Marquez**, who had all of us in stitches with his funny innuendos and actions.

The fab **Aiza Seguerra** wowed the crowd with an awesome acoustic performance that had us clamoring for more, more, more. And she obliged, *palanggas*. The party also served as an impromptu birthday celebration for handsome twins **Richard** and **Raymond Gutierrez.**

Naturellement, the stars got pampered in the Wellness Spa, where they indulged in various spa treatments enriched by Nivea's sooo good Body and Soul Skin Oil.

This Nivea Aqua Cool Wellness and Adventure Tour, *palanggas*, was undoubtedly an awesomely cool event—today's hottest stars sharing the limelight with Nivea's coolest products.

Now if that ain't cool, what is?

COOL dudes: Andrew Schimmer and Patrick Garcia

GANG of three: super smart president of LEN Inc. Marilen Nuñez, with siblings Vittorio and Yanee Ortega

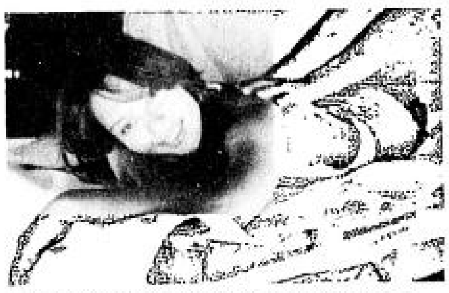
GELLI de Belen and Ariel Rivera with their kids

DYAN Castillejo with son Matthew

BEAUTIFUL couple Bernadette Allyson and Gary Estrada

NEW
NIVEA DEO AQUA COOL
COOL KIC
GENTLE
NIVEA DEO AQUA COOL
COOL KI
GEN
MEGA persona Richard Gomez with the rah-rah shining stars of the Nivea marketing team: brand managers Ida Dizon and Roselle Cua, brilliant marketing director Rica King, brand manager Belle Ortega and marketing assistant Aubrey Bautista

COOL guys cool it. Richard Gutierrez with AJ Eigenmann and Paolo Paraiso


DELICIOUSLY gorgeous G Töngi gets the star treatment at the Nivea Wellness Spa.

GOOD-LOOKING dudes Andrew Wolf, Paolo Paraiso, Marco Alcaraz with luscious, articulate actress Gwen Garci, Paolo Contis and vivacious Fran Ribano

CHAMPIONS of the tour, Team White Nivea Deo: Jon Mullaly, Philp Cu-Unjieng, Alfred Vargas, Neil Guia, Jomari Yllana, Antonio Aquitania; (seated) Gwen Garci, team leader Ernie Lopez and G Töngi

NIVEA Team: Joey Marquez and son Yeoj

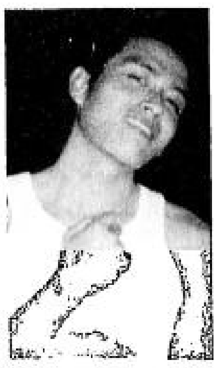
SUPER personalities: Hunk Wendell Ramos and adorable Nadia Montenegro

DELICIOUS lookers: Marie Lozano of ABS-CBN and super eye-catching Francine Prieto

THIRD placer, the Orange Team of Nivea Body: Natalia "Tals" Diaz, Ronald Singson, Amiel Cabanlig, Tim Walters, Karla Estrada, Jake Cuenca and Raymond Gutierrez; (seated) Ryan Singson, team leader Buboy Garovillo and Jeremy Marquez

PRESS pals: Amiel Cabanlig with JR Isaac, Isha Andaya, *moi*, Bianca Salonga and Pepper Teehankee

HIP SHAKER of Premier Wines and Spirits, good-looking Spencer Ty


THE MAN: Sexy but shy movie star Alfred Vargas

How to know if you are losing your hair

IF YOU LOSE 75-150 strands of hair daily, that is normal and part of the natural life cycle allowing new hair to grow.

To check if your hair loss is excessive, ask yourself these questions:

Do you see more hair than usual in the sink trap after you shampoo?

Is there more hair than usual in the brush you regularly use?

Do you see any part of your scalp shining through your hair?

Is your hair receding at the temples?

Have certain portions of your hair gradually become finer?

Does your hair feel dry and brittle despite the use of a conditioner?

Excessive hair loss affects both men and women. Causes include advanced age, heredity, medication's side effects, hair abuse, or faulty hair treatments. Most thinning is gradual while some hair loss may be temporary.

Frannie Villanueva of Hairwear says the first step in addressing hair loss is to determine its cause. Should a hairpiece be required, Villanueva says Hairwear provides world-class quality systems that ensure people will not look like they are wearing wigs.

She says the products use 100-percent human hair. Strands are individually hand-knotted to the base, making the hair flow naturally and looking like it is growing from the scalp. Each hairpiece is customized. The color, texture and style are adapted to a person's face, age and skin tone.

Hairpieces may be worn while engaged in various activities. They can be washed, blow-dried, ironed, colored, or permed. With proper care, a hairpiece can last five years or more.

The company has launched Hairwear Friends, a special program to support hair loss problems of cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

Hairwear gives free consultation. Call 4145957 or visit G/F Francisco Building, Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

THE FIRST step in addressing hair loss is to determine its cause.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNER

St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) was named recently an international affiliate of the world's most prestigious cancer institution, the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. It is the only Philippine hospital to earn the distinction. Signing the Memorandum of Agreement are SLMC's chief executive officer and president Jose Ledesma and Dr. Thomas Fahey, senior vice president for clinical program development and director of international oncology programs of Sloan Kettering. Present during the signing were SLMC's chair Robert Kuan, United States Consul General David Donahue and Marilen Lagniton of SLMC's corporate communications office.

New product is fat 'sponge'

NU Skin introduces Fibrenet Dietary Supplement to minimize the body's absorption of fat from oily foods.

The product works two ways: 1) it absorbs fat in the digestive tract and 2) helps maintain cholesterol level.

Fibrenet contains PolmerPlex, a highly refined form of chitosan that is derived from the exoskeleton of shellfish. An insoluble fiber, chitosan acts like a "fat sponge," absorbing and trapping fat in the digestive tract that is then passed out of the body.

Chitosan has the potential to safely absorb many times its weight in lipids, food and blood fats, thus maintaining cholesterol and triglyceride levels.

Fibrenet is marketed by Nu Skin Philippines, Inc. Call 6890333 or log onto www.nuskin.com.ph.

Two-year course on alternative health care

A TWO-YEAR certificate program, the Diploma in Alternative Health Care, is now being offered by the St. Francis Divine College.

The privately owned school is located beside SM Fairview inside the St. Dominic Subdivision.

Enrollees must have completed at least two years of undergraduate degree program. Special programs and schedules will be tailored for other health professionals.

The program has been accredited by the Commission for Higher Education and is awaiting accreditation from the Technical Skills Development Authority (Tesda). The first year focuses on basic medical skills and covers such subjects as Microbiology and Parasitology, Anatomy and Physiology, and Nutritional Biochemistry. Year two focuses on practical aspects, including expracticum at the college's Alternative Health Care Clinic.

At the end of the course the graduate may start his/her own practice or be part of a team of other health professionals.

Some alternative health practices covered by the program are aromatherapy, body works, nutritional therapy, iridology, energy healing, acupuncture, acupressure, herbal medicine and basic medical sciences.

Enrollment for the program is now ongoing. A free orientation for prospective enrollees is being held by appointment at the St. Francis Divine College Campus. Visit the college at the St. Dominic Subdivision, 12 Salvia St., Novaliches, Quezon City, or call 9399304/9393493/0920-2127766.

Filipino women create 'superbrand'

LACTACYD Feminine Hygiene has reached Superbrands status in the healthcare, toiletries and cosmetics category.

A research conducted by the global firm Synovate showed that Lactacyd Feminine Hygiene has strong consumer loyalty despite the ever changing market.

Lactacyd Feminine Hygiene was initially presented to obstetricians and gynecologists as a medical product to help in the treatment of vaginal infections. Many women eventually made the milk-based cleansing product part of their daily cleanliness and hygiene routine. Lactacyd Feminine Hygiene contains lactic acid and lactoserum.

Sanofi-Synthelabo, the company that developed the product, introduced last year other variants: Lactacyd Fresh Radiance, Lactacyd Confidence, and Lactacyd Vaginal Gel. Complementing them is Lactacyd Feminine Wipes, pre-moistened towelettes with the same natural ingredients as Lactacyd Feminine Hygiene.

Discover something new
each and every day in Hong Kong

Catch it all right here in Hong Kong from now till May 2005. Immerse yourself in the lively arts and culture scene-with the arts festival, film festival, music festivals, concerts, and plays galore. And if you're into sports, get ready for some of the biggest sporting events of the year! Come and experience it all in Hong Kong!

Hong Kong Arts Festival 2005

Rugby World Cup Sevens 2005

Spartacus By Hong Kong Ballet 2005

The Bee Gees' Broadway & West End Hit Musical - Saturday Night Fever

MARCH

17 February - 20 March 2005
2005 HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL
More than just entertainment, this is the premier arts festival in the Asia Pacific region. It represents the highest artistic standard from around the world, bringing together leading artists from the Mainland and Hong Kong.

11-20 March 2005
HONG KONG FLOWER SHOW 2005

18 - 20 March 2005
RUGBY WORLD CUP SEVENS 2005
Watch your favourite teams compete in the premier tournament of the International Rugby Board's World Sevens Series.

22 March - 6 April 2005
ENTERTAINMENT EXPO HONG KONG 2005
For the first time ever, you'll get to see eight of Hong Kong's biggest and brightest acts under one roof. It's an entertainment extravaganza not to be missed.

22 March - 6 April 2005
THE 29th HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Almost 300 international films to choose from, featuring everything from award-winning movies to avant garde and indie flicks.

25 - 27 March 2005
SPARTACUS BY HONG KONG BALLET
Choreographed and arranged by Irek Mukhamedov, one of Bolshoi Ballet's leading dancers, this new-classical ballet is based on two themes - one of love, and one of strife.

25 March - 2 May 2005
A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY
Connie Chan Po Chu returns to centre stage with another rendering of "A Sentimental Journey" - a production that revolves around the development of the Sin Fung Ming Opera Troupe.

APRIL

22, 23, 24, 29 & 30 April 2005
"GISELLE" BY HONG KONG BALLET

24 April 2005
QUEEN ELIZABETH II CUP (HORSE RACING)

MAY

1 May 2005
TIN HAU FESTIVAL
Celebrated on the 23rd day of the third month of the lunar calendar, this colourful festival is celebrated by Hong Kong fishermen in honor of Tin Hau, the goddess of the sea.

15 May 2005
CHEUNG CHAU BUN FESTIVAL
The centerpiece of the festival is a trio of 16-metre high towers of pink-and-white buns. The highlight is a procession of child performers dressed as ancient gods and heroes. Marvel at how they are suspended by an intricate system of hidden rods and wires.

From 20 May 2005
THE BEE GEES' BROADWAY & WEST END HIT MUSICAL - SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER
Saturday Night Fever comes alive on the Hong Kong stage with this two-and-a-half-hour dance marathon production featuring the classic and brilliant disco soundtrack by the Bee Gees!

29 May 2005
HONG KONG CHAMPIONS & CHARTER CUP (HORSE RACING)

May to June 2005
LE FRENCH MAY 2005
FESTIVAL OF ARTS
Have a taste of Europe with this annual festival of French arts and culture. Watch elite French symphonies performance led by world famous conductors. Jazz music, cutting-edge theatre, French art and cuisines - all these and more at the Le French May 2005 Festival of Arts.

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For more information, please visit DiscoverHongKong.com
*Information is correct as of January 2005 and it is subject to change without prior notice.

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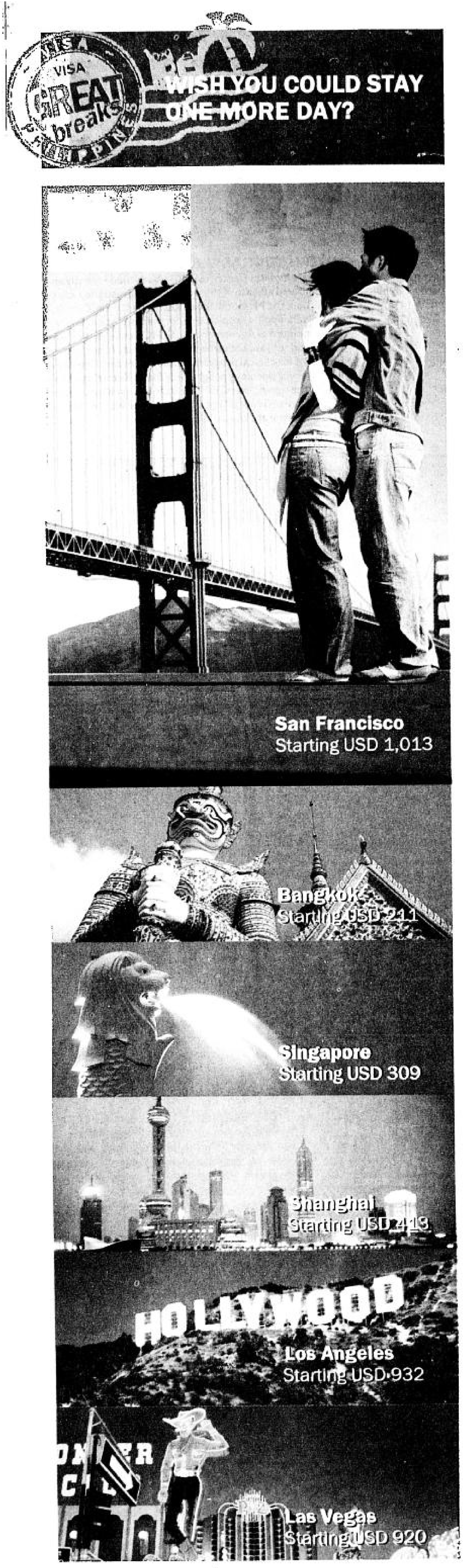

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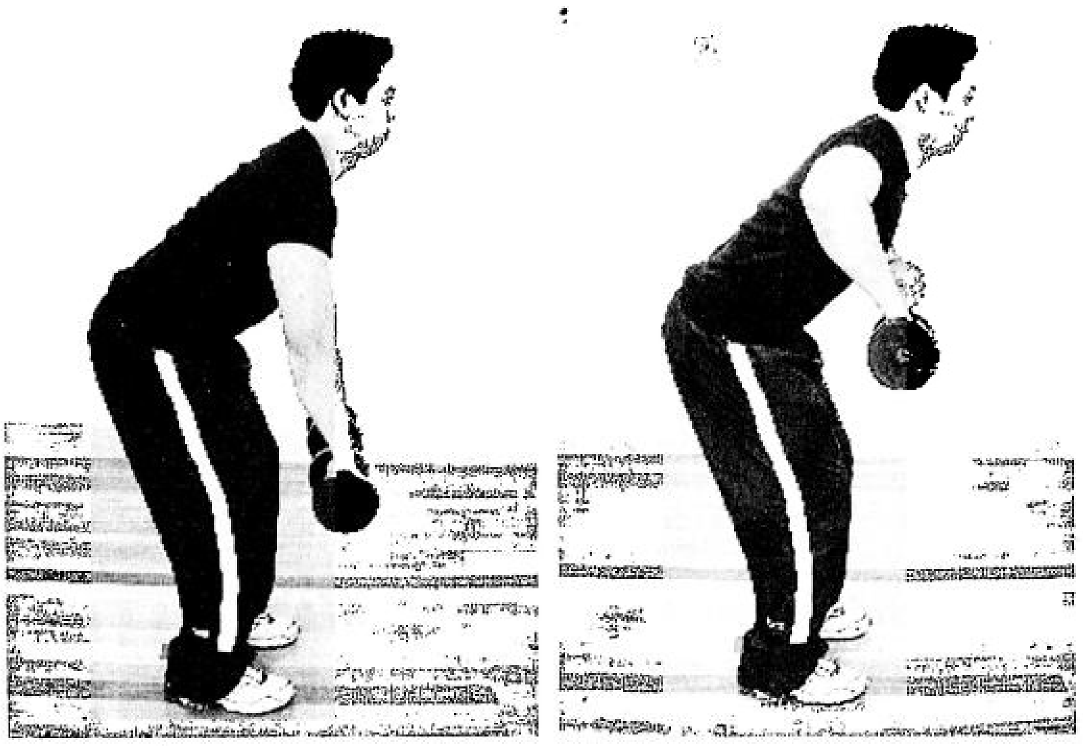
VISA
All it takes.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

45 degree bent-over upright row



FIRMS and strengthens the muscles at the back of the shoulders. Your lower back and leg muscles are working also.

Equipment:

A pair of dumbbells.

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with your feet a little wider than hip-width apart.

2. Bend forward from the hips while keeping your back straight and knees slightly bent. Your upper body should be at a 45-degree angle with the floor and your arms should hang down in line with your shoulders. Palms should be facing the back.

3. Squeeze your shoulder blades together and maintain that position throughout the entire exercise. This is your starting position.

4. Pull the dumbbells up until your elbows are at shoulder level or slightly below.

5. Slowly lower the weight back to starting position.

6. Repeat.

Performance tips:

1. This is an advanced exercise and should only be done by individuals who have developed sufficient strength to maintain a straight spine with a natural curve in the lower back. A fair amount of flexibility is also needed in the hamstrings or back of the thighs.

2. It is very important to keep the shoulder blades squeezed together throughout the entire exercise, otherwise the back will be rounded.

3. Exhale as you pull the dumbbells upward; inhale as you return to starting position.

Repetitions:

Do 12-15 repetitions.

Parents are children's role models

From page C1

forbidden. I found that the best compromise was to set aside a day of the week (usually Saturday or Sunday) for junk or fast food. This is one way to have your cake and eat it, too.

With my kids, the training started from the time they were born. My husband is another story because, after all, another woman raised him!

* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. will hold a one-day seminar on Feb. 26 at the University of the Philippines Diliman campus. Topics are "The Latest Fitness Trends and Research," "Exercise for Menopausal Women," "Agility Training for Badminton," "Cardio Dance," "Latin Aerobics," "Yoga Pilates Fusion" and "Hip Hop."

Call 9202762 or 0917-5181202.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

Take Charge Doc!

Dr. Nicky S. Montoya

Take Charge Doc! is your weekly question and answer guide on general health issues and illnesses. MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, Take Charge Doc! parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health.

What is good and bad cholesterol? How does it cause heart disease?

Cholesterol is a fat like substance found naturally in the blood and all body tissues. It also comes from food of animal origin. Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL), commonly known as bad cholesterol, is the major cholesterol carrier in the blood. Too much circulating LDL cholesterol can slowly lead to deposition and build up of cholesterol plaques in the tissues and blood vessel walls like those of arteries delivering blood to the heart and brain. Increased levels in this cholesterol result in a higher risk of developing coronary heart disease. The optimal level for LDL is <100 mg/dl. High Density Lipoprotein (HDL) on the other hand is the good cholesterol and unlike LDL, HDL tends to carry cholesterol away from the tissues to the liver to be metabolized and eliminated by the body. The desirable level of HDL is > 40 mg/dl.

Coronary heart disease is a leading cause of sickness and death in our country and almost all over the world. The disease is caused by atherosclerosis, which simply put is a blood vessel disease in which the inner linings of arteries become thick and irregular because of deposits of fat, cholesterol and other substances. A non-modifiable risk factor to this heart disease is dyslipedemia, which is a state of increased total cholesterol, low density lipoprotein and a low level of good cholesterol as well as triglycerides.

This week's answer to our feature question on cholesterol was provided by our accredited specialist from Fatima Medical Center (FMC), **Dr. Rebecca W. Deduyo.** Dr. Deduyo, a Medicine graduate of MCU, specializes in Internal Medicine. She also holds subspecialty in Adult Cardiology and Echocardiograpy. Currently, Dr. Deduyo is a professor of Medicine for the Our Lady of Fatima University. She is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology, an Associate Fellow of the Philippine Heart Association and Professional members to a number of renowned specialty organizations like the American Heart Association and Philippine Society of Hypertension. Members may visit her for consultations at Room 201, the New Medicine Bldg. of FMC from Mondays to Saturdays, 1:30 to 6 in the evening.

BE HEARD AND BE READ. Write to DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA (c/o *TAKE CHARGE DOC!*) or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for inquiries on health matters.

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Love means surrender

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

"You know that you have fully experienced love when you turn into love—that is the spiritual goal of life."

–Deepak Chopra M.D.

Your essence

It is said men are all about work, achievement and ego. And women are all about nurturing, home and heart.

In a busy and somewhat hostile world, it is easy to forget who you truly are and focus your energy on what you do. People become the sum total of their experiences, not the wholeness of their inner essence.

Everyone has an essence. It is the unseen force that drives, inspires and guides you.

Surrender

Consumed by questions like "Did I find the right partner?" "How long will this marriage last?" "Am I truly honest with myself and my mate?" people use outward or external circumstances to rate their lives. Consequently, there is a sense of urgency or need to "shop" for the right person at the right time.

But Dr. Chopra says in his book, "A Path to Love," love is not about externals. To have it, one must surrender. "Without surrender, passion is centered on a person's craving for pleasure and stimulation... with surrender, passion is directed toward life itself."

Surrender is the supreme act of faith—knowing that one can flow through life's challenges and, while beset by fears and insecurities, believe that things are going to be ok.

You are love

There is inside you unlimited kindness, goodness and joy. If you haven't realized it yet, you never will. Understanding this means your own sense of fulfillment isn't anchored on somebody but yourself. The self attached to the indestructible part of itself, the spirit, will always be open, honest, joyful, hopeful.

Sigmund Freud, in "Civilization and Its Discontents," gave a picture of humanity as unloving, motivated by money, power and sexual gratification. Despite this, there is reason to hope. Humans were created for love not just to the depths but to the heights of the human soul.

Ultimately, the "direct experience of spirit is the only lasting foundation for love."

Love yourself

Begin with what you've got—yourself. If things haven't been going your way, if something has been holding you back, if there is more pain than joy in your life, then maybe you should take a good look at yourself. Accept that who you are is is lovable and created to be loved. Once you open yourself to this universal truth, a door opens. New energies, new experiences will enter your life.

Love's enemy

Fear is the enemy of love. With fear in your heart, no love can enter. Fear of commitment drives away love because it allows hopelessness to reside in your heart.

The only way to overcome fear is to confront it—not run away from it. Most people who fear fear are in denial about themselves and life situations.

How well do you regard love in your life? Here's a simple test. Sit down with a pencil and paper and record your answers to these questions:

What's the first name that comes to mind when you think of the following?

Saintly
Passionate
Kind
Adventurous
Beautiful
Courageous
Tender
Loyal
Handsome
Selfless
Strong
Funny
Genius
Innocent
Admirable
Talented
Generous
Adorable

Out of 18 possible choices:

- If more than eight of your responses are fictional, there is a strong fantasy component to your definition of love. This is also true if movie and television stars fig-

LOVE/ D3

SAY GOODBYE TO DARK SCAR FOREVER!
Finally... A dark scar lightening that works IN JUST 7 DAYS [illegible]
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Men are VAIN too
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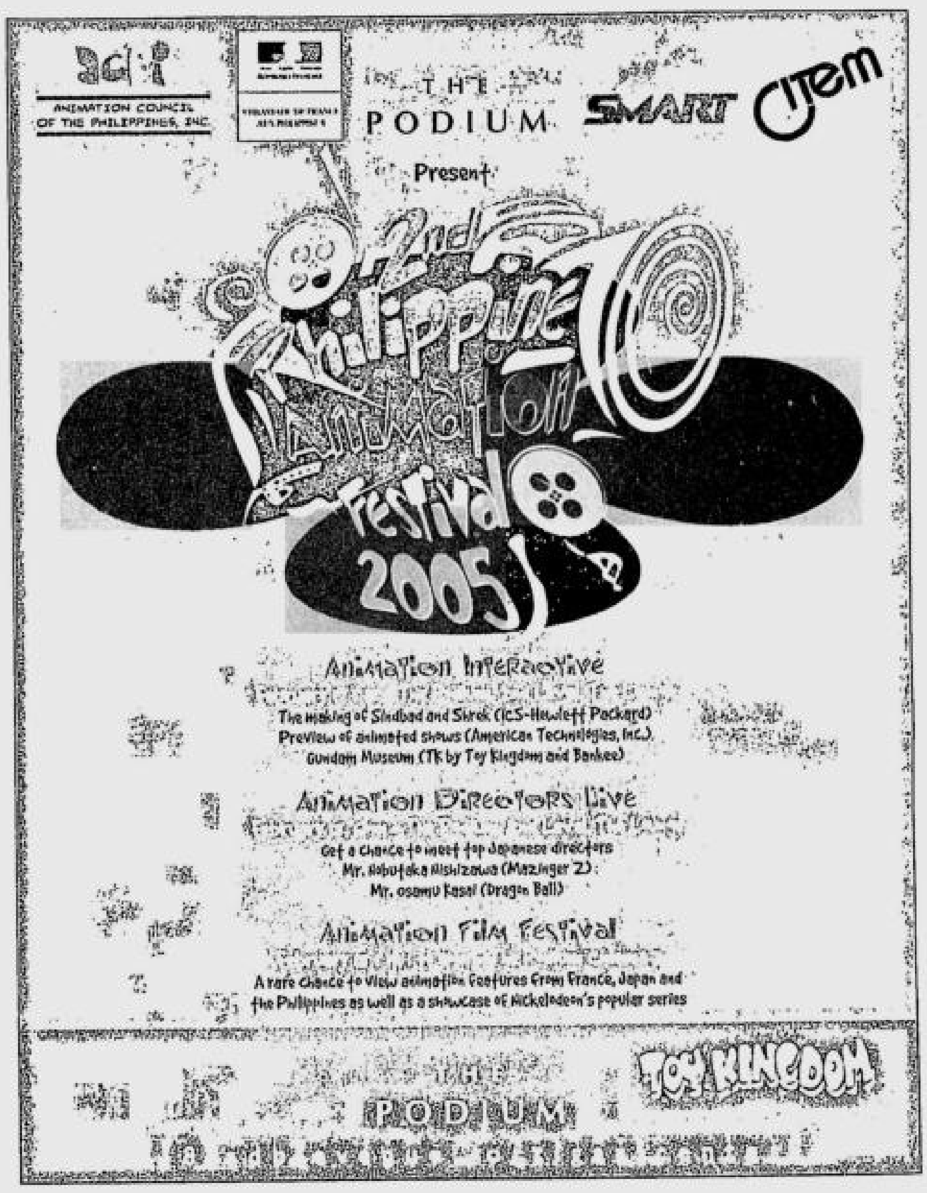
METROPOLIS Alabang 8098877 • ARANETA SQUARE, Caloocan • Starmall, Shaw Blvd.
Website: www.weighlesscenter.net / E-mail: weighlesscenter@yahoo.com



ANIMATION COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.
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Present
2nd Philippine Animation Festival 2005
Animation Interactive
The making of Sindbad and Shrek (ICS-Hewlett Packard)
Preview of animated shows (American Technologies, Inc.)
Gundam Museum (TK by Toy Kingdom and Bankee)
Animation Directors Live
Get a chance to meet top Japanese directors
Mr. Nobutaka Nishizawa (Mazinger Z)
Mr. Osamu Kasai (Dragon Ball)
Animation Film Festival
A rare chance to view animation features from France, Japan and the Philippines as well as a showcase of Nickelodeon's popular series
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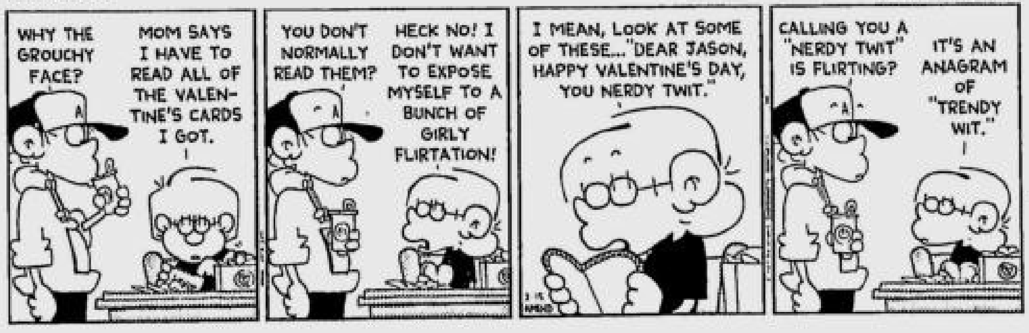
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND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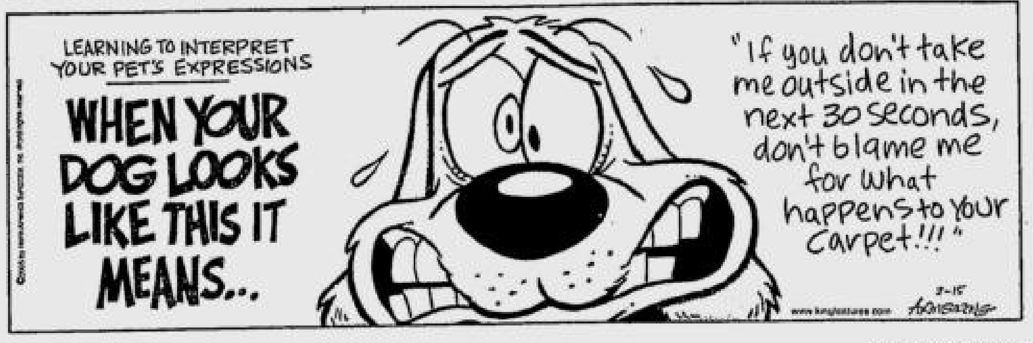
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2-15
www.kingfeatures.com
ARMSTRONG

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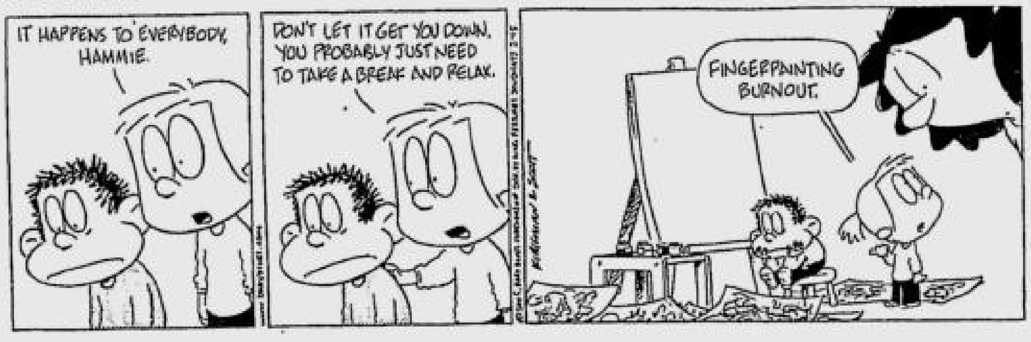
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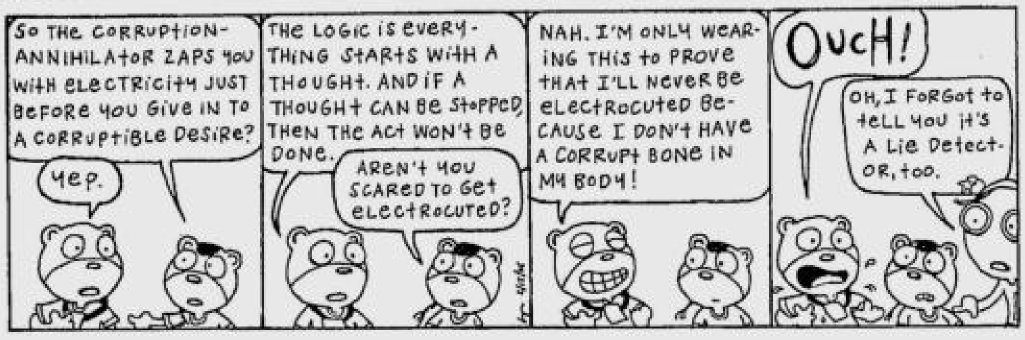
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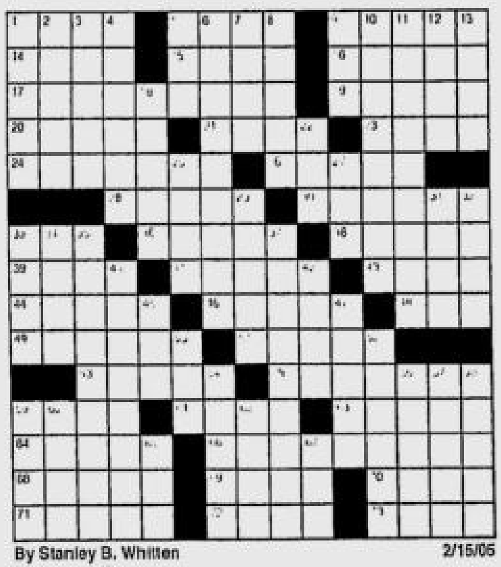
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Pumpkin fruit
5 Seep
9 Agave plant
14 Ripens
15 King toppers
16 Organic compound
17 Facial lines
19 Semiconductor
20 Religious belief
21 On the briny
23 Projecting tooth
24 __ Ferryman (Charon)
26 Take five
28 Earthenware pots
30 TV show with a laugh track
33 Resistance unit
36 Bring out
38 Ecru
39 Island wreaths
41 Tiny particles
43 Capital of Manche
44 Concord, e.g.
46 On the wagon
48 Bow wood
49 Pack of destroyers
51 Congressional aides
53 Desktop images
55 Comforts
59 Rescue
61 Sacred bull of Egypt
63 Former Mrs. Trump
64 Clan
66 New York waterway
68 Highway to Fairbanks
69 Last word, perhaps
70 Make mention of
71 Afrikaners
72 Knock down, in London
73 Golf gadgets

DOWN
1 Treaties
2 White heron
3 Showy flower
4 City on Lake Ontario
5 Dullard
6 Sealab staff
7 Sleep letters
8 Organic compound
9 Forlorn
10 Apes
11 Missouri River port in Iowa
12 Tacks on
13 Welsh symbol
18 Subway gate
22 '52 and '56 candidate
25 "M*A*S*H" star
27 Pol. party
29 News exclusive
31 Eyeball
32 Cat greeting
33 Gymnast Korbut
34 German title
35 1980s police drama series
37 Ambassadors' offices
40 Keyboard element
42 Western lily
45 Old name for Tokyo
47 Piece of history
50 Santa __ winds
52 Learned scholar
54 Lance cousin
56 Kayak cousin
57 Related on mother's side
58 Merchant's figures
59 Pierce
60 Woody's boy
62 "__ la Douce"
65 USNA graduate
67 Compass pt.



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

2/15/05

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	A	R	■	D	E	B	T	S	■	O	A	H	U
O	O	Z	E	■	A	L	O	H	A	■	U	R	I	S
I	C	O	N	■	P	A	N	E	L	■	G	A	L	E
L	O	V	E	T	H	Y	N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R
■	■	■	G	U	N	N	Y	■	N	O	T	■	■	■
S	A	R	A	L	E	E	■	E	G	O	■	P	A	L
A	C	I	D	S	■	■	A	P	E	■	B	L	U	E
L	O	V	E	A	N	D	M	A	R	R	I	A	G	E
E	R	A	S	■	E	V	A	■	■	A	B	N	E	R
S	N	L	■	M	A	D	■	M	A	I	L	E	R	S
■	■	■	Y	I	P	■	P	A	S	T	E	■	■	■
L	O	V	E	A	T	F	I	R	S	T	B	I	T	E
P	R	I	M	■	I	R	E	N	E	■	E	D	E	N
G	A	V	E	■	D	O	T	E	S	■	L	E	A	D
A	L	A	N	■	E	G	A	D	S	■	T	A	M	S

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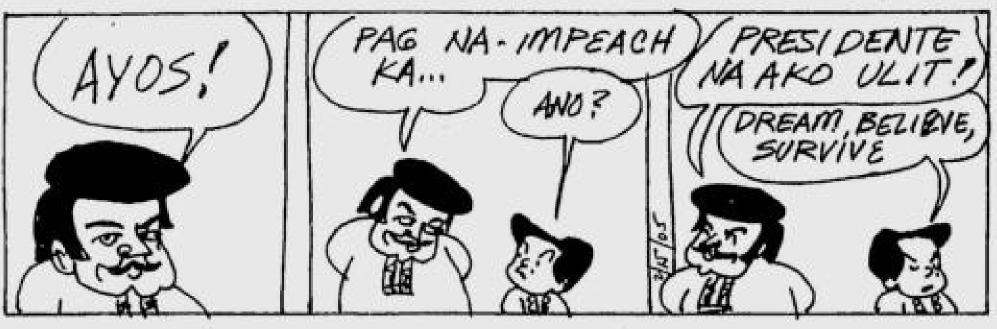
2/15/05

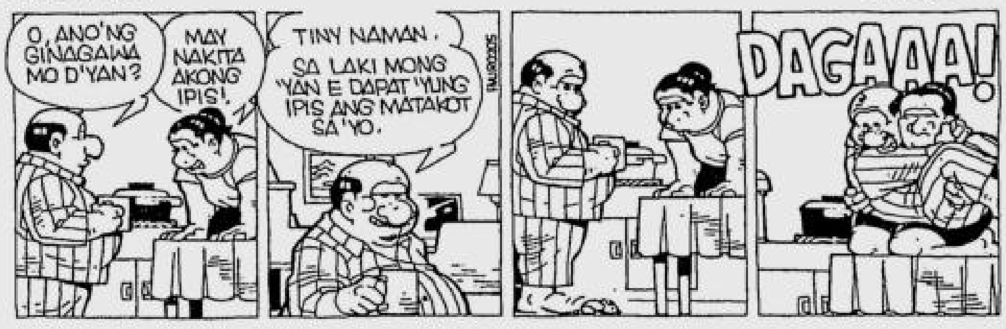
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


AYOS!
PAG NA-IMPEACH KA...
ANO?
PRESIDENTE NA AKO ULIT!
DREAM, BELIEVE, SURVIVE

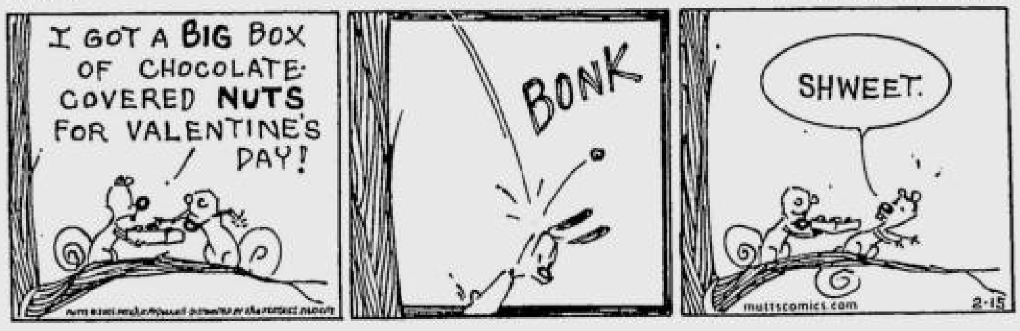
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O, ANO'NG GINAGAWA MO D'YAN?
MAY NAKITA AKONG IPIS!
TINY NAMAN. SA LAKI MONG 'YAN E DAPAT 'YUNG IPIS ANG MATAKOT SA 'YO.
DAGAAA!

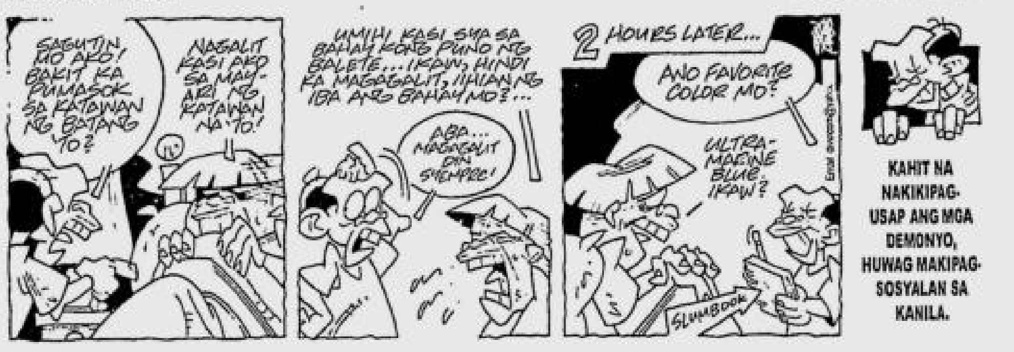
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I GOT A BIG BOX OF CHOCOLATE-COVERED NUTS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY!
BONK
SHWEET.
muttscomics.com
2-15

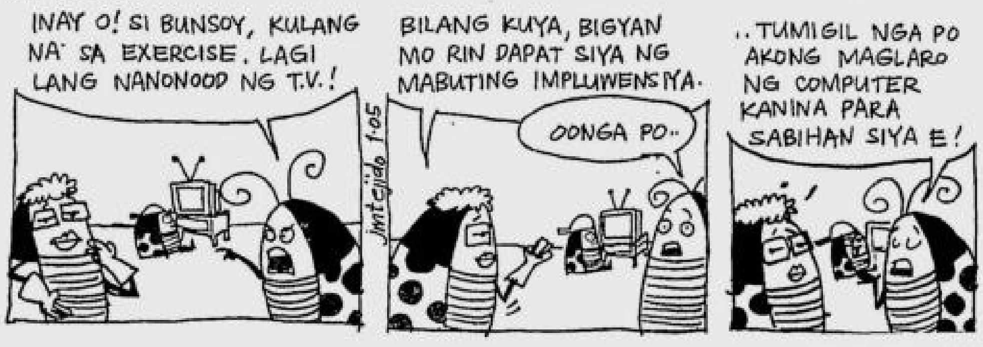
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SAGUTIN MO AKO! BAKIT KA PUMASOK SA KATAWAN NG BATANG 'TO?
NAGALIT KASI AKO SA MAY-ARI NG KATAWAN NA 'TO!
UMIHI KASI SIYA SA BAHAY KONG PUNO NG BALETE... IKAW, HINDI KA MAGAGALIT, IIHIAN NG IBA ANG BAHAY MO?...
ABA... MAGAGALIT DIN SYEMPRE!
2 HOURS LATER...
ANO FAVORITE COLOR MO?
ULTRA-MARINE BLUE. IKAW?
SLUMBOOK
KAHIT NA NAKIKIPAG-USAP ANG MGA DEMONYO, HUWAG MAKIPAG-SOSYALAN SA KANILA.

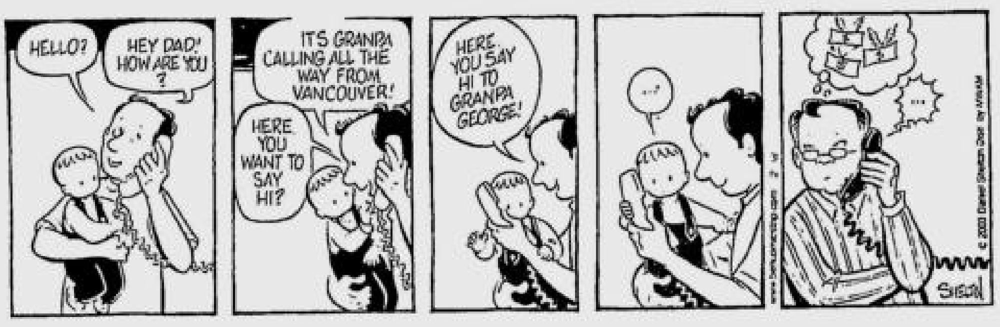
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY O! SI BUNSOY, KULANG NA SA EXERCISE. LAGI LANG NANONOOD NG T.V.!
jmtejido 1-05
BILANG KUYA, BIGYAN MO RIN DAPAT SIYA NG MABUTING IMPLUWENSIYA.
OONGA PO..
..TUMIGIL NGA PO AKONG MAGLARO NG COMPUTER KANINA PARA SABIHAN SIYA E!

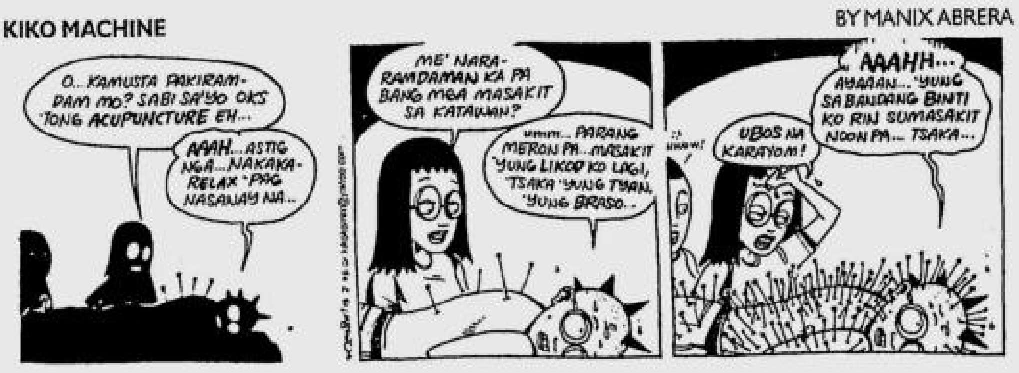
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HELLO?
HEY DAD! HOW ARE YOU ?
ITS GRANPA CALLING ALL THE WAY FROM VANCOUVER!
HERE. YOU WANT TO SAY HI?
HERE. YOU SAY HI TO GRANPA GEORGE!
...?
...
SHELTON

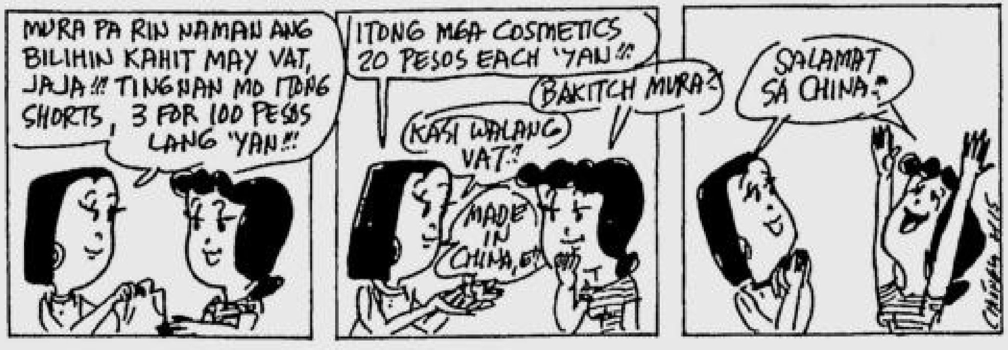
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O... KAMUSTA PAKIRAMDAM MO? SABI SA'YO OKS 'TONG ACUPUNCTURE EH...
AAAH... ASTIG NGA... NAKAKA-RELAX 'PAG NASANAY NA...
ME' NARARAMDAMAN KA PA BANG MGA MASAKIT SA KATAWAN?
UMM... PARANG MERON PA... MASAKIT 'YUNG LIKOD KO LAGI, 'TSAKA 'YUNG TYAN, 'YUNG BRASO...
UBOS NA KARAYOM!
AAAHH... AYAAAN... 'YUNG SA BANDANG BINTI KO RIN SUMASAKIT NOON PA... TSAKA...

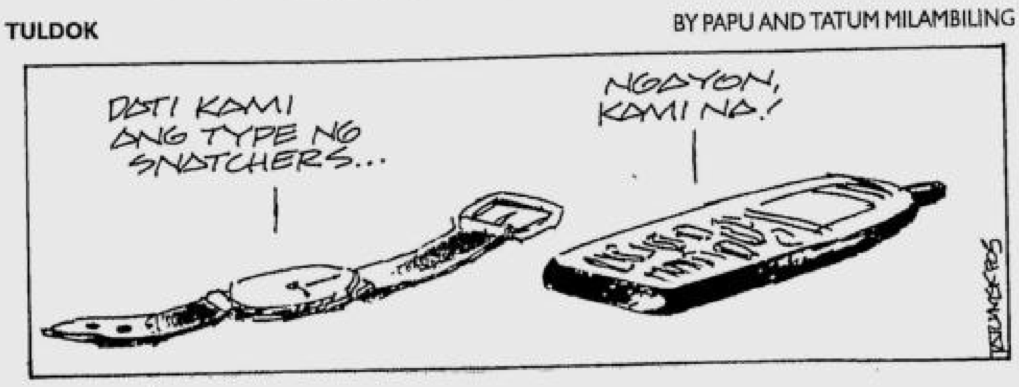
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

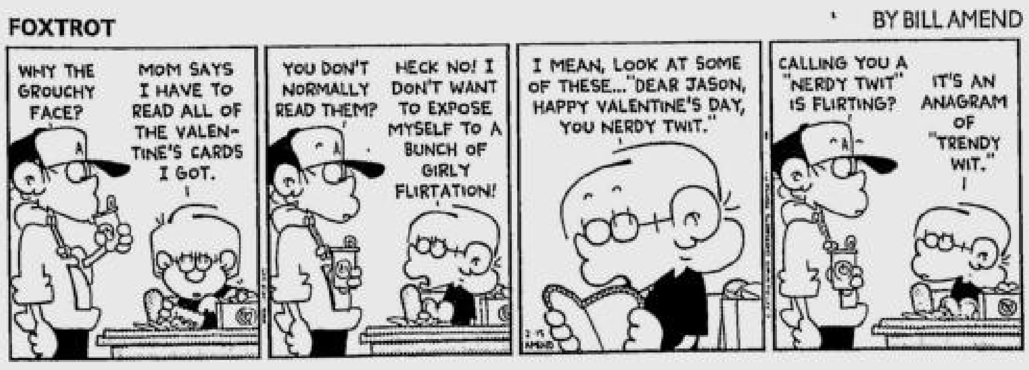

MURA PA RIN NAMAN ANG BILIHIN KAHIT MAY VAT, JAJA!!! TINGNAN MO ITONG SHORTS, 3 FOR 100 PESOS LANG 'YAN!!!
ITONG MGA COSMETICS 20 PESOS EACH 'YAN!!
BAKITCH MURA?
KASI WALANG VAT!
MADE IN CHINA, E!
SALAMAT SA CHINA!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DATI KAMI ANG TYPE NG SNATCHERS...
NGAYON, KAMI NA!

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND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IT'S AN ANAGRAM OF "TRENDY WIT."

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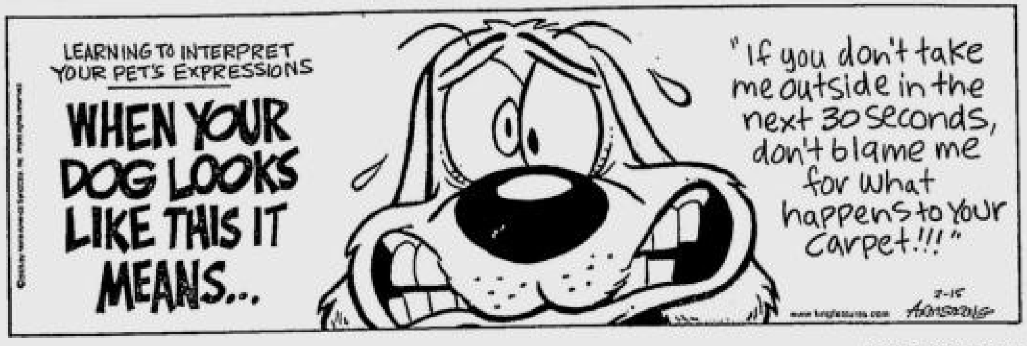
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2-15

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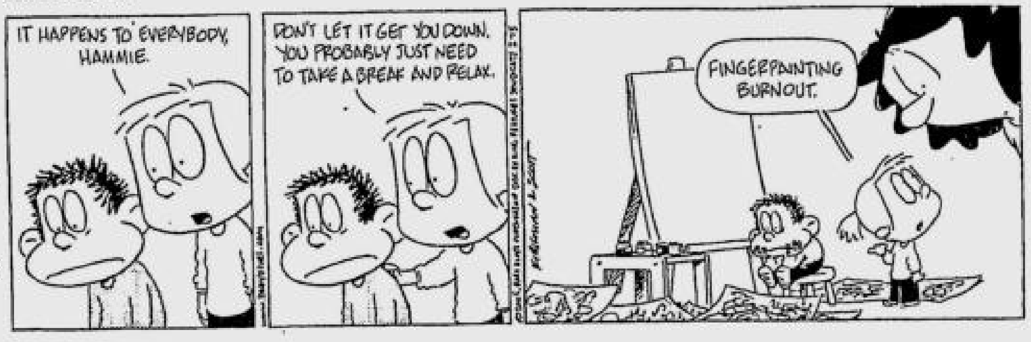
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FINGERPAINTING BURNOUT.

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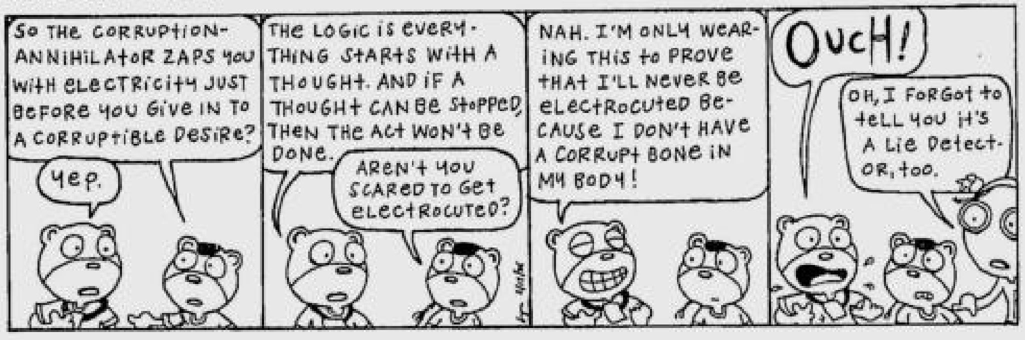
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NAH. I'M ONLY WEARING THIS TO PROVE THAT I'LL NEVER BE ELECTROCUTED BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE A CORRUPT BONE IN MY BODY!
OUCH!
OH, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU IT'S A LIE DETECTOR, TOO.

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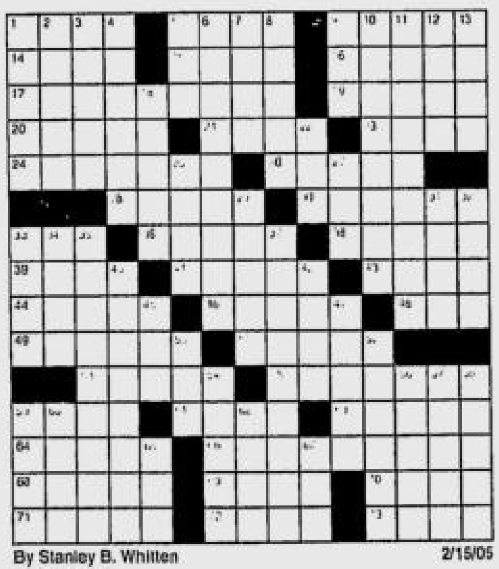
DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
2/15/05

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15 King toppers
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49 Pack of destroyers
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61 Sacred bull of Egypt
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25 "M*A*S*H" star
27 Pol. party
29 News exclusive
31 Eyeball
32 Cat greeting
33 Gymnast Korbut
34 German title
35 1980s police drama series
37 Ambassadors' offices
40 Keyboard element
42 Western lily
45 Old name for Tokyo
47 Piece of history
50 Santa __ winds
52 Learned scholar
54 Lance cousin
56 Kayak cousin
57 Related on mother's side
58 Merchant's figures
59 Pierce
60 Woody's boy
62 "__ la Douce"
65 USNA graduate
67 Compass pt.

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	A	R	■	D	E	B	T	S	■	O	A	H	U
O	O	Z	E	■	A	L	O	H	A	■	U	R	I	S
I	C	O	N	■	P	A	N	E	L	■	G	A	L	E
L	O	V	E	T	H	Y	N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R
■	■	■	G	U	N	N	Y	■	N	O	T	■	■	■
S	A	R	A	L	E	E	■	E	G	O	■	P	A	L
A	C	I	D	S	■	■	A	P	E	■	B	L	U	E
L	O	V	E	A	N	D	M	A	R	R	I	A	G	E
E	R	A	S	■	E	V	A	■	■	A	B	N	E	R
S	N	L	■	M	A	D	■	W	A	I	L	E	R	S
■	■	■	Y	I	P	■	P	A	S	T	E	■	■	■
L	O	V	E	A	T	F	I	R	S	T	B	I	T	E
P	R	I	M	■	I	R	E	N	E	■	E	D	E	N
G	A	V	E	■	D	O	T	E	S	■	L	E	A	D
A	L	A	N	■	E	G	A	D	S	■	T	A	M	S

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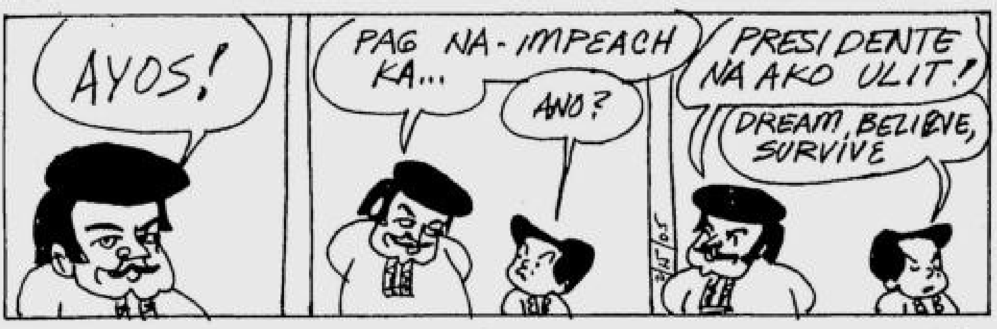
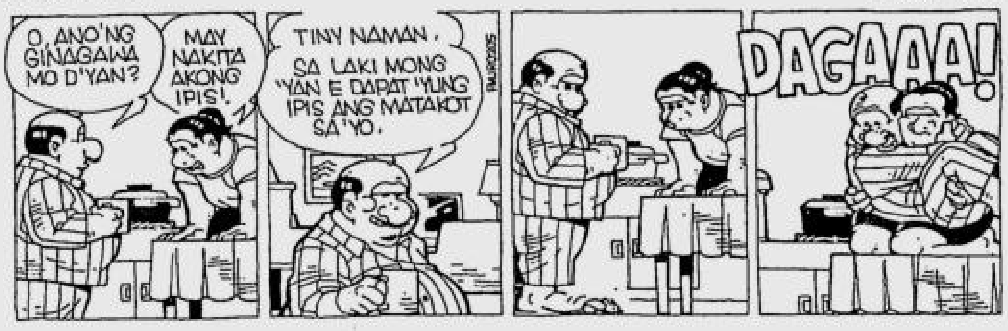
2/15/05

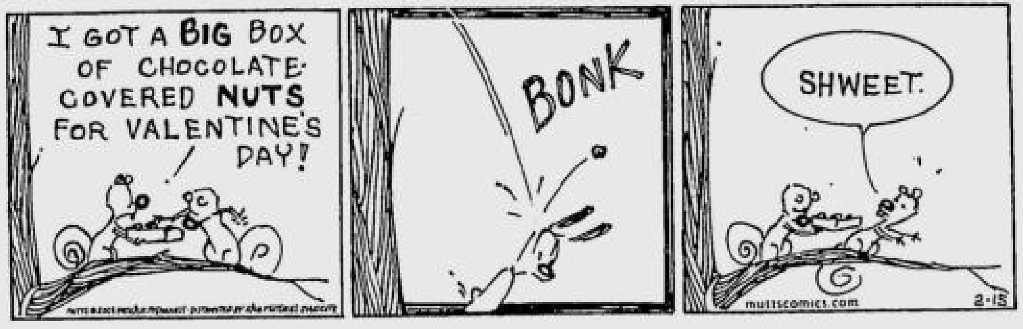
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


AYOS!
PAG NA-IMPEACH KA...
ANO?
PRESIDENTE NA AKO ULIT!
DREAM, BELIEVE, SURVIVE

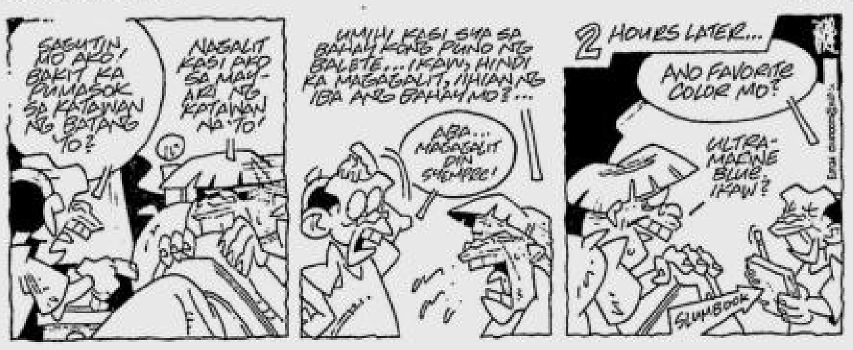
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


O, ANO'NG GINAGAWA MO D'YAN?
MAY NAKITA AKONG IPIS!
TINY NAMAN. SA LAKI MONG 'YAN E DAPAT 'YUNG IPIS ANG MATAKOT SA'YO.
DAGAAA!

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

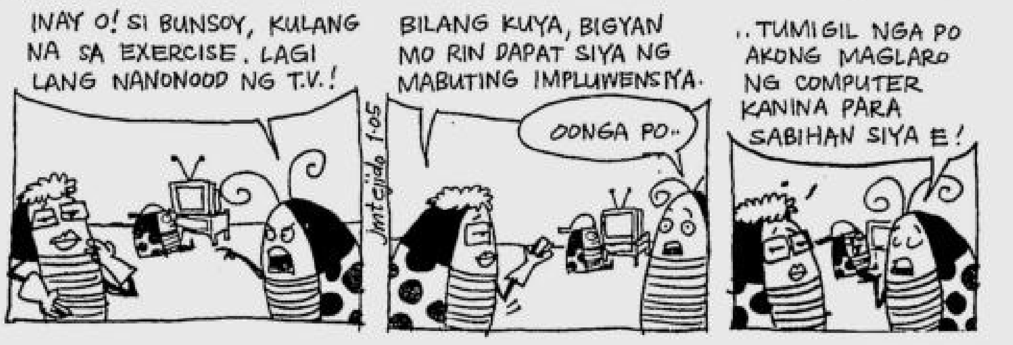

I GOT A BIG BOX OF CHOCOLATE-COVERED NUTS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY!
BONK
SHWEET.
mutts comics.com
2-15

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

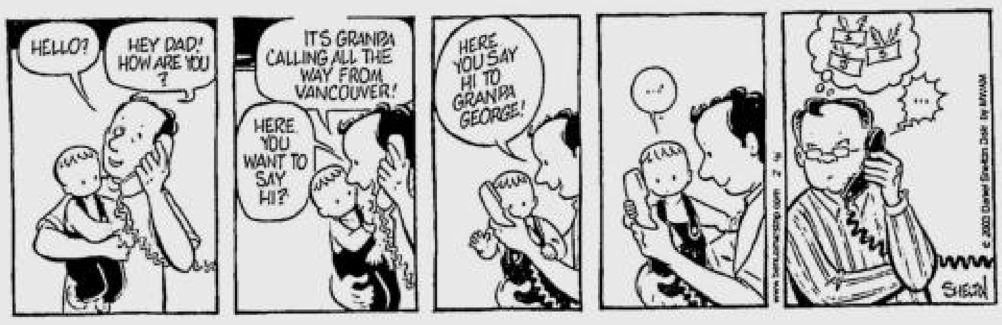

SAGUTIN MO AKO! BAKIT KA PUMASOK SA KATAWAN NG BATANG 'TO?
NAGALIT KASI AKO SA MAY-ARI NG KATAWAN NA 'TO!
UMIHI KASI SIYA SA BAHAY KONG PUNO NG BALETE... IKAW, HINDI KA MAGAGALIT, IIHIAN NG IBA ANG BAHAY MO?...
ABA... MAGAGALIT DIN SYEMPRE!
2 HOURS LATER...
ANO FAVORITE COLOR MO?
ULTRA-MARINE BLUE, IKAW?
SLUMBOOK

KAHIT NA NAKIKIPAG-USAP ANG MGA DEMONYO, HUWAG MAKIPAG-SOSYALAN SA KANILA.

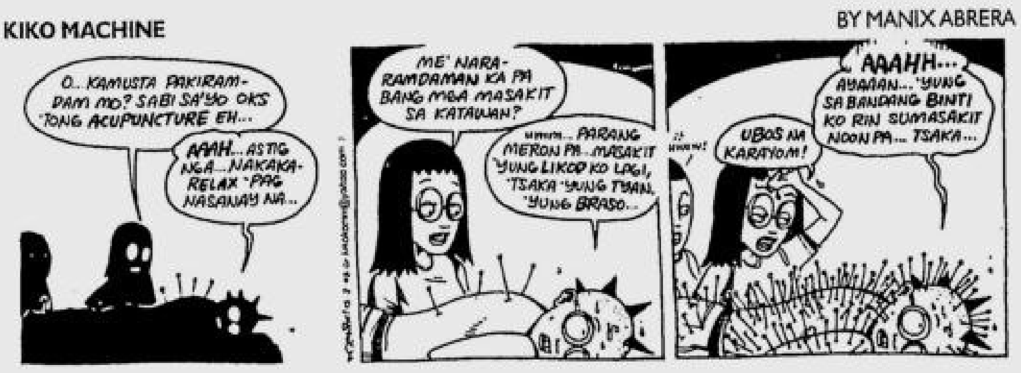
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY O! SI BUNSOY, KULANG NA SA EXERCISE. LAGI LANG NANONOOD NG T.V.!
BILANG KUYA, BIGYAN MO RIN DAPAT SIYA NG MABUTING IMPLUWENSIYA.
OONGA PO..
..TUMIGIL NGA PO AKONG MAGLARO NG COMPUTER KANINA PARA SABIHAN SIYA E!

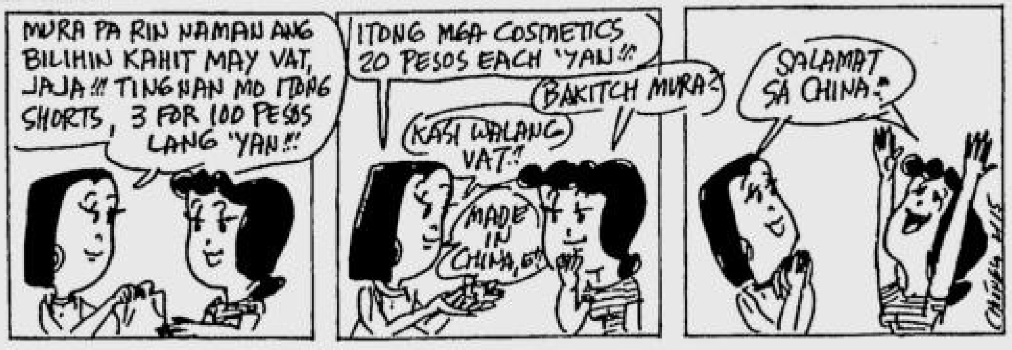
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HELLO?
HEY DAD! HOW ARE YOU ?
IT'S GRANPA CALLING ALL THE WAY FROM VANCOUVER!
HERE. YOU WANT TO SAY HI?
HERE YOU SAY HI TO GRANPA GEORGE!
..?
...

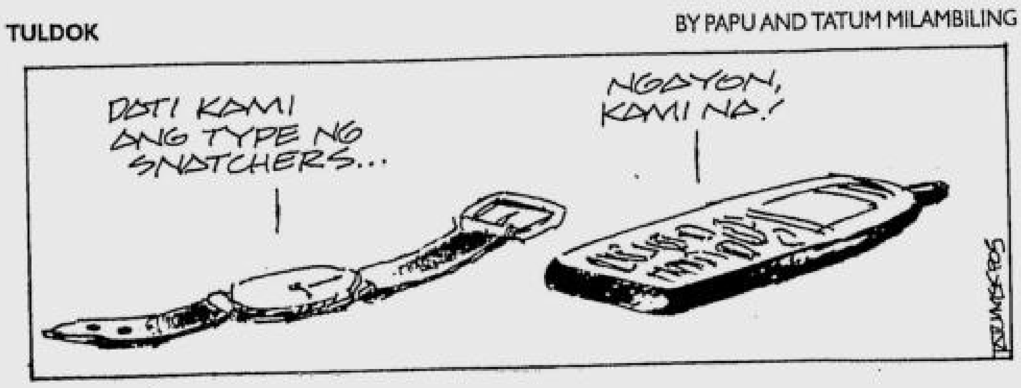
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


O.. KAMUSTA PAKIRAMDAM MO? SABI SA'YO OKS 'TONG ACUPUNCTURE EH...
AAAH... ASTIG NGA... NAKAKA-RELAX 'PAG NASANAY NA...
ME' NARARAMDAMAN KA PA BANG MGA MASAKIT SA KATAWAN?
Hmmm... PARANG MERON PA... MASAKIT 'YUNG LIKOD KO LAGI, 'TSAKA 'YUNG TYAN, 'YUNG BRASO...
UBOS NA KARAYOM!
AAAHH... AYAAAN... 'YUNG SA BANDANG BINTI KO RIN SUMASAKIT NOON PA... TSAKA...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MURA PA RIN NAMAN ANG BILIHIN KAHIT MAY VAT, JAJA!!! TINGNAN MO ITONG SHORTS, 3 FOR 100 PESOS LANG 'YAN!!
ITONG MGA COSMETICS 20 PESOS EACH 'YAN!!
BAKITCH MURA?
KASI WALANG VAT?
MADE IN CHINA, EH!
SALAMAT SA CHINA!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DATI KAMI ANG TYPE NG SNATCHERS...
NGAYON, KAMI NA!

Lucban isn't just 'pahiyas' country anymore

By Nancy T. Lu
Contributor

FILIPINOS feel a need to turn to God constantly for blessing and increasingly for healing physically, emotionally and psychologically. This seems to explain why the house of worship towers and lords it over just about every neighborhood and community in the Philippines.

Lucban, a town at the foot of the often cloud-veiled Mount Banahaw in Quezon province, is not an exception.

The Lucbanins, in fact, make it a point to take visitors to the Church of St. Louis of Toulouse in the town proper. The landmark Catholic church, first built in 1593, was destroyed in 1629. The second church was constructed in the 17th century only to be gutted by fire in 1733.

Records, as summed up on a marker, indicate that the present church with its interesting façade was finished in 1738. Partly damaged during World War II, it underwent renovation in 1966.

The picturesque church with a gray façade full of built-in niches wears a look of antiquity temporarily lost in the not-too-distant past due to misguided cleaning and restoration. The beautiful unpainted structure, a reminder of the Spanish legacy, stands out as a painter's dream subject.

Food vendors doing business in the churchyard give the site local color. Delicacies offered by hawkers go the range: cooked banana, fluffy rice flour cake or *bibingka* baked over charcoal and grilled sticks of innards, among others.

Pasalubong

Students crowding around a *merienda* or snack stall tell visitors where to enjoy a helping of *pancit habhab*. The native noodles with stock providing flavor are scooped on a banana leaf and relished minus spoon and fork in the open air. Foodstuffs to bring home include the uncooked Lucban *miki* or noodles as well as spicy *longganisa* or sausage. *Broas*, which are like lady fingers, are available in tin jars. Rice cookies called *puto seko* make nice presents for family and friends, too. Lucban with its many coconut farms is likewise famous for the potent coconut wine called *lambanog*.

Narrow main streets in Lucban like Quezon Avenue are rather busy and noisy on weekdays with the exceptionally long jeepneys that can seat 20 on each side, dropping or picking up commuters between Lucban and Lucena.

A brisk walk around the town's center leads to the town hall and small plaza. Step inside and be taken by the *pahiyas* décor identified with the colorful harvest festival in May.

Mother Earth's bounty

Lucban, pleasantly cool and wet almost the whole year round, has long been put on the tourism map by the Maytime harvest festival in honor of San Isidro Labrador, patron saint of farmers. The town gets transformed into a showcase of Mother Earth's bounty.

Houses on streets along the route of the traditional procession and parade compete in decoration. Homes and shops are creatively and artistically decorated with *palay*, coconuts, vegetables and fruits. Even local products and handicrafts like Lucban straw hats are sometimes used to cover and dress up the front of a house for San Isidro Labrador.

Most residences, however, opt to keep alive the tradition of stringing the so-called kiping into magnificent chandeliers for hanging in facades. Originality is put to a test yearly. Judging is sometimes led by famous Lucbanin artist Oscar Zalameda.

Kiping refers to ground rice dough drained, dyed, kneaded and dried in the shape of leaves before being tied with *buntal* fiber for easy stringing into drooping bundles for decorative hanging. The edible leaves are either monochromatic or in contrasting colors.

A new healing center is now drawing people almost everyday, not just during the feast day of San Isidro Labrador

Beautiful examples of the *pahiyas* or decorative displays can be found in the town hall the whole year round. Vivid pink, yellow and green in color, the *kiping* clusters hanging overhead lend a bright and cheerful note to the seat of the municipal government only 163 km east of Manila.

Latest crowd-drawer

Motorists from Manila have also been discovering Lucban since the inauguration of the Kamay ni Hesus (Hand of Jesus) Healing Church and the Grotto of Healing and Purification in Barangay Tinamnan in December.

The steep slope next to the spanking new church has been landscaped to become the Via Dolorosa or Way of the Cross for pilgrims from far and wide. On a beautiful day, believers struggle to complete the climb to the top to pray before the image of Christ seemingly waiting with open arms.

ON A BEAUTIFUL day, believers climb to the top of a hill to pray at the Grotto of Healing and Purification.

Fr. Joey A. Faller, a Lucbanin said to have come from a family of doctors, started out by praying over the sick and the suffering during special healing services. A vehicular accident reportedly caused him to suffer permanent hand injury. But observers notice that his maimed hand now resembles that of Jesus known for his healing power.

Strong believers among patients over whom the healing priest had prayed were reportedly cured. In fact, a very rich Chinese businessman was said to have experienced miraculous recovery from a serious ailment as a result of Father Faller's healing prayers. As an act of thanksgiving, he fulfilled his pledge to finance the construction of a healing center.

Today, Lucban is building a reputation as a healing center through this new landmark where regular healing Masses and even soaking prayers are offered. The Footprints in the Park is paved with records of donations of P2,500 from individuals or families for the maintenance and upkeep of the premises.

Love means surrender

From page D1

ure prominently on your list.

You probably see a "perfect" lover as unattainable but intensely desirable. You look for external beauty before intrinsic qualities. You probably do not see yourself as beautiful, fascinating, or worthy of the attention of people you admire.

- If more than eight of your responses are people you've never met, there is a strong streak of idealism in your definition of love. You may rely on hero worship to give you strength; you unconsciously see a lover as a rescuer, provider, tower of strength, father figure, or authority.
- If more than five of your responses are your father or mother, you have not formed a strong sense of love on your own but look to childhood models.
- If more than five of your responses are "me," your answers are not honest, indicating fear or insecurity about being loved.
- If more than five of your responses are the same name, you are probably in love with that person.
- If your spouse doesn't appear in your answers at least three times, you haven't fully confronted your doubts about your relationship. You have to open new lines of communication.

Good beginnings

How can one begin to draw love into one's life? Make a list of the things you have long wanted to do for yourself. Prioritize according to their importance and timeliness. Set deadlines. Take it one item at a time throughout the year.

A good start is your health and well-being. How can you begin to love others if you don't love yourself?

Love infusion

Make a steaming infusion of three drops rose aromatherapy oil in a bowl of hot water. Take deep breaths, close your eyes. Visualize yourself in a bed of flowers or a pink cloud. Stay centered.

Love scrub

You can do this with your partner. Share a bowl of crushed rose petals, salt and oil (coconut, almond, etc.). Scrub each other from foot to neck. Follow with a cool rinse.

Love and light!

Biblical accounts of teleportation

TELEPORTATION is a psychic power that is not very common. Yet, we found two examples in the Bible.

But first let's try to understand the term. Teleportation is the power to make one's self disappear from one physical location and appear immediately in another without any physical means. It may also refer to the process by which the phenomenon takes place.

The most famous example of teleportation in the history of paranormal phenomena is the Filipino *guardia civil* during the Spanish era, who suddenly disappeared from his post in the governor general's palace and appeared in Mexico City half way around the world. The bewildered soldier could not explain how he got there.

When asked by Mexican authorities, he told them he was a guard at the Philippine governor general's palace and said the governor was assassinated. He was brought before church authorities who concluded he must be possessed by the devil and promptly put him in jail.

Some weeks later, a galleon ship from the Philippines arrived with a Philippine official who identified the guardia civil and confirmed everything he said. The Filipino was released and sent home on a ship.

First biblical case

In the Bible, a case of teleportation can be found in Acts of the Apostles (8:38-40). The apostle Philip rode on the chariot of a eunuch. When they came upon a small body of water, the eunuch asked Philip to baptize him. Philip disappeared afterward and found himself in another place where he preached the good news.

Here's the Biblical account:

"He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesaria."

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

Second case

Another example of teleportation in the Bible can be found in John (6:16-21). Jesus and his disciples were out at sea, three to five miles from the shore. When Jesus stepped into the boat, they found themselves immediately at the shore. Here's the King James Bible's description of the incident:

"And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea, and entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them. And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. So when they had rowed about five and 20 or 30 furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. But He saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid. Then they willingly received Him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went."

A clue

How teleportation takes place is still not clear. Science has absolutely no explanation. However, the modern science of Quantum Physics seems to hold a clue. Quantum physicists discovered that the smallest or quantum particle of matter could disappear in one orbit and immediately appear in another. If this can happen at the quantum level, why can it not happen at the macro level?

The physicists also found that at the smallest level, thought or consciousness could affect behavior of matter.

This helps explain what happened to my friend. Benny and Nora and their teenaged daughter lived in San Juan, Metro Manila. One evening the couple went to the movies while their daughter spent the night at a friend's. When they got home, Benny discovered to his horror that he forgot the key to the front door, and nobody could open it for them.

Benny asked his wife to see if there was a partly open window at the back that they could use to get into the house. As his wife walked away, Benny stood in front of the main door angry at himself and wishing he could figure out a way to get inside.

All of a sudden, he blacked out, losing consciousness momentarily. When he opened his eyes, he was inside the house. He opened the door just as his wife returned to report she could find no opening at the back.

As he opened the door from the inside, she exclaimed, "How did you get in? Did you find the key?" When he told her what happened, she, of course, couldn't believe it. But both were relieved they did not have to destroy the lock of their rented house at such late hour.

I have heard several other interesting stories of teleportation but do not have the space for them.

As the Bible itself attests to the phenomenon's existence, I suppose there is no reason to doubt its reality.

Address letters to this column to Prince Plaza I, 106 Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806 for information on seminars I conduct. E-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://jlicauco.short-url.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program 7-8 p.m. every Sunday

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Davaoeños also hooked on badminton

MANILANS are not the only ones who have gone gaga over badminton.

Davaoeños, both young and old, have also become hooked on the sport, according to Mae Bangayan, general manager of Davao Holiday Spa.

In view of this, Davao Holiday Spa offers a variety of badminton programs including juniors and children instruction, women's events, adult instruction, mini-tournaments, special events and private lessons.

The spa has two premiere viewing courts adjacent to the gym. Designed to be a full-service health club, the Davao Holiday Spa also offers high intensity workouts, salon, swimming instructions, boxing and aerobics. It also has a coffee shop.

Davao Holiday Spa is located at F. Torres St., Davao City. Call (082) 2255577, (082) 2263683.

Recognize heart attack, stroke signs

HEART attack and stroke are life-and-death emergencies—every second counts.

If you see or experience any of known symptoms, immediately seek medical help, advises the Healthy Options News Digest.

Here are signs that may suggest a heart attack:

· Chest discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or recurs. It may feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

· Discomfort or pain in other areas of the upper body—one or both arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach

· Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort

· Other signs may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

If you or someone complains of chest discomfort, especially with one or more of the other signs, don't wait longer than five minutes to get help.

As for stroke, the American Stroke Association has come up with these warning signs:

· Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body

· Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding

· Sudden difficulty seeing with one or both eyes

· Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination

· Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

Conditions linked to stroke include high blood pressure, cigarette smoking, heart disease, diabetes and transient ischemic attacks (TIAs) or small strokes that last only for a few minutes or hours.

These conditions are treatable or may be avoided by adopting a healthy lifestyle.

Healthy Options News Digest is available in Healthy Options stores at level 1 of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; level 2 of Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; ground level of Ayala Center, Cebu City; lower ground floor of SM City North EDSA; level 2 of SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; at level 2 of SM Megamall B, EDSA, Mandaluyong City; SM Pampanga and SM Bicutan.

Visit www.healthyoptions.com.ph.

HEALTHFIX

TEXT AND ART : LYNETT A. VILLARIBA / 2.2005

Break a leaf to cool a burn

ALOE vera's properties as a first aid treatment for burn were revealed to me while visiting an aunt who loved to cook and tend a garden.

In the kitchen, she burned her hand on the hot stove. She immediately applied cold water, then reached out, not for a first aid kit, but for a potted aloe vera plant. She took a leaf, sliced it open, and applied the gel on the affected area.

Not only did the cool gel quickly relieve the pain, the burn also healed without a scar. In fact, the "treatment" prevented blistering. I then understood why aloe vera was called "the burn plant."

I have also heard grandmother's tales about aloe vera–in the days when home gardens always included a *sabila* plant–being used to treat dandruff, split ends and falling hair.

These applications of the plant go way back to 1500 B.C. when Egyptians recorded use of aloe vera in treating burns, infections and parasites. The Egyptian queens Nerfertiti and Cleopatra were said to have used it as part of their regular beauty regimen.

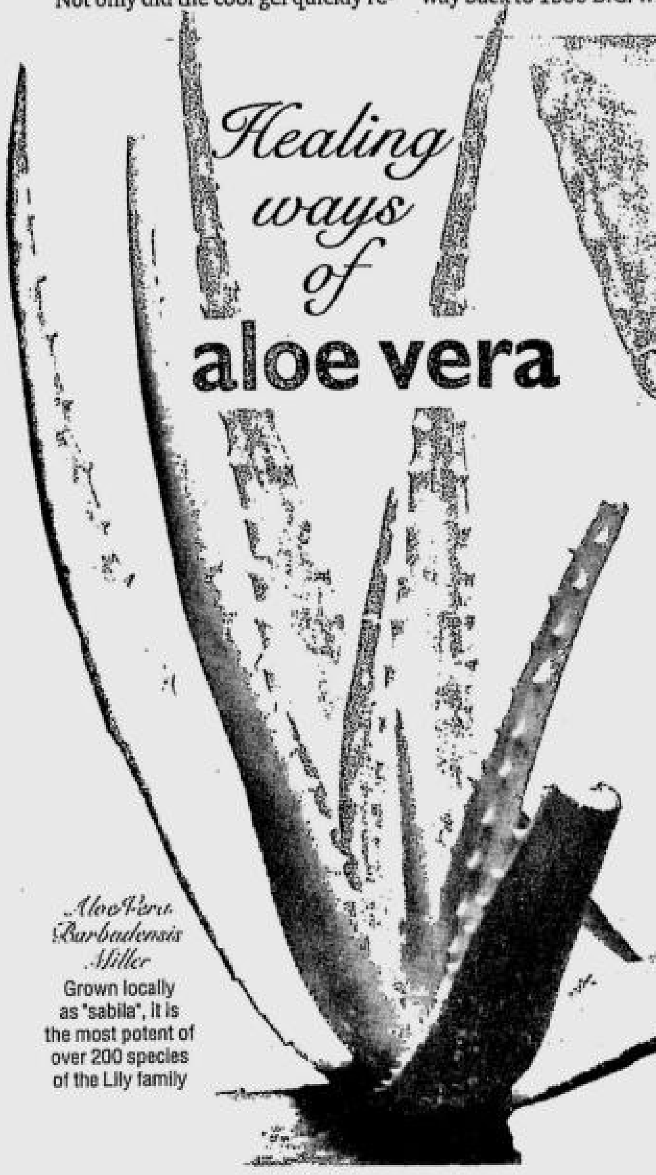
Supposedly, Alexander the Great was persuaded in 333 B.C. by his mentor, Aristotle, to capture parts of Africa where aloes grew because they were needed to treat his wounded soldiers.

Another story says Greek scientists 2000 years ago regarded aloe vera as the universal panacea. Through time, aloe vera, one of many varieties of the Lily family, lived up to its name as the true aloe ("vera" means true in Spanish).

By the 21st century, it has become the most widely used ingredient in skin care products, found in almost all cosmetics, and the most used raw material for laxatives in the world.

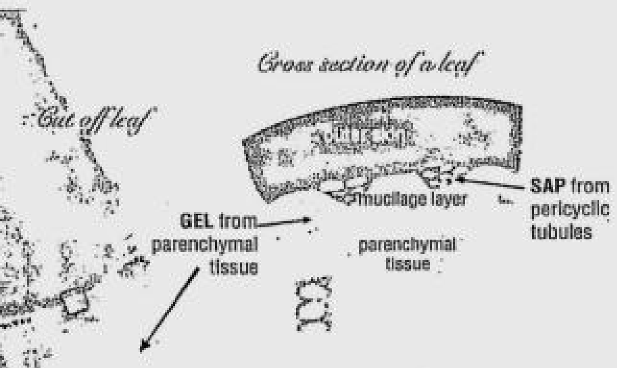
What makes aloe vera work?

Healing ways of aloe vera



Aloe Vera Barbadensis Miller

Grown locally as "sabila", it is the most potent of over 200 species of the Lily family



Cross section of a leaf

Topical gel

ALOE vera gel is the leaf pulp or mucilage, a thin clear jelly-like substance that appears when the green skin of a leaf is removed.

- The aloe vera gel is a diverse mixture of antibiotic, astringent, coagulating agent, pain inhibitor, cell growth stimulator and scar inhibitor.
- The gel seems to contain a "wound hormone" that accelerates the rates of healing of injured skins and helps generate new skin cells.
- It is used as an ointment for skin injury, as well as an ingredient in various beauty preparations.

Tonic drink

ALOE juice is a bitter yellow extract from tubules beneath the outer skin that has a very strong laxative effect.

- Aloe juice naturally alkalizes digestive juices to prevent overacidity. It is found to sooth digestive tract irritations, such as colitis and peptic ulcers.
- It has been utilized as a beverage since ancient times. Today, the juice is dried to produce "aloe" granules that become dark brown from exposure to air, for pharmaceutical use.
- Because aloe vera plants consist of 95 percent water, its leaves and root system can be extracted to provide a tonic drink containing active healing ingredients. Health treatments are made in combination with other plants and herbs.
- As a food supplement, aloe is said to facilitate digestion, aid in blood and lymphatic circulation, as well as kidney, liver and gall bladder functions.

Active ingredients

1. **Vitamins** notably the antioxidant vitamins A, C and E, and a trace of B12—one of the few plant sources of this vitamin.
2. **Enzymes** that break down fat and sugars: bradykinase helps to reduce excessive inflammation and pain when topically applied to the skin, lipases and proteases aid digestion, while others help digest dead tissues in wounds
3. **Minerals** essential for proper functioning of various enzyme systems in different metabolic pathways: Calcium, Sodium Potassium, Manganese, Magnesium, Copper, Zinc, Chromium and the anti-oxidant Selenium
4. **Sugars** from the mucilage layer of the plant: enhance the immune system and help to detoxify main moisturizers in topical preparations
5. **Anthraquinones**, found in the plant sap, aids absorption in the gastro-intestinal tract and has anti-microbial and pain killing effects (aloin and emodin).
6. **Lignin**, an inert substance, makes aloe vera's ingredients easily absorbed into our skin
7. **Saponins**, soapy substances that make up 3 percent of the gel, have cleansing and antiseptic properties against bacteria, viruses, fungi and yeasts
8. **Fatty acids** cholesterol, campesterol, b. sisosterol and lupeol—four plant steroids important as anti-inflammatory agents
9. **Salicylic acid**, an aspirin-like compound possessing anti-inflammatory an anti-bacterial properties
10. **Amino acids** provide 20 of 22 amino acids the body needs and 7 out of 8 essential amino acids the body cannot synthesize

A pot of natural remedy for every home

THOSE wise to aloe vera's healing benefits keep a potted "burn plant" in the kitchen. When the need arises, treatment for minor burns and wounds comes direct from a flowerpot of mature plant .

A tonic drink can be drawn from the plant. To make a salve, remove the thin outer skin and process the leaves in a blender, add 500 units of vitamin C powder or choice fruits and herbs, then store in the refrigerator.

Like most natural remedies, aloe vera works best when used fresh from the plant but it oxidizes rapidly when exposed to air. Fortunately for us, because it only grows in warm, fertile conditions like those in the Philippines, they make excellent house plants.

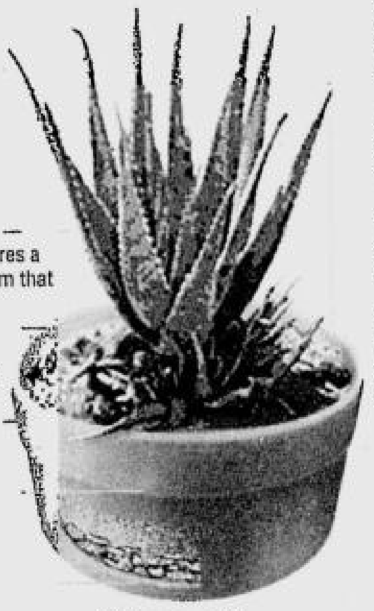
Grown outdoors in warm climates, they should be planted in full sun, or light shade.

A succulent closely resembling a cactus, aloe vera stores a large quantity of water within its leaves and root system that enables the plant to survive long periods of drought.

The soil should be moderately fertile, and fast draining. Established plants will survive a drought well but, for the benefit of the plant, water should be provided.

Aloes have a shallow, spreading root system. Choose a wide planter, rather than a deep one.

Use a planter with a drainage hole, or provide a 1-2 inch layer of gravel in the bottom of the pot to ensure adequate drainage.



Home remedy

Aloe vera menu

FOR MOST of us, it may be more convenient to buy a processed product. However, to achieve the correct balance of ingredients, the product should remain as natural as possible, not chemically altered nor heat-treated. Processed products are difficult to keep stable, so the best source of aloe gel is still direct from a broken leaf of the plant.

Aloe Vera of Australia has come up with formulations that read like an alchemist's list of how we can maximize the healing potential of the tropical aloe vera plant.

These natural formulations are available in the Philippines through SanGiovani network marketing (call 8236411/ 12 or visit: www. sangiovani.com).

Skin injury relief

- Aloe vera extract mixed with tea tree oil assists in the secondary treatment of minor burns, cuts, wounds, insect bites, rashes, stings, and mild skin irritations.
- It can relieve itching due to insect bites and allergies.

Aloe + Tea Tree Oil

Beauty care

- Used for facial cleansing and toning, aloe vera wipes away pollutants, makeup and impurities while maintaining the skin's natural balance and moisture.
- It can assist in the removal of damaged skin cells and promote healthy new cells, softening and rejuvenating skin.

Pure Aloe

Sun protector

- As nature's ideal hydrator and moisturizer, the soothing gel takes the pain and heat out of sun and windburn instantly.
- Enriched with peppermint essential oil, it reduces redness and helps prevent peeling.

Aloe-Peppermint

Aloe blends

Gentle laxative

- Combined with apple extract and psyllium husks, aloe vera tonic provides a gentle natural laxative for constipation and irregularity.

Anti-inflammation

- For inflamed joints, aloe vera juice, enriched with anti-inflammatory celery seed, calming white willow and juniper berry, it can relieve discomfort and pain associated with arthritis and cartilage damage.

SOURCES: ALOE VERA OF AUSTRALIA PRODUCTS / WWW.POSITIVEHEALTH.COM / WWW.THEGARDENHELPER.COM

Complete line for facial, skin care

ST. IVES, a leading skin-care brand worldwide, offers a complete facial care regimen that includes facial cleansers, moisturizers and toners, scrubs and masks.

The St. Ives Hydroxy Cleanser gently cleans and exfoliates to reveal fresh, healthy-looking skin. It is suitable for all skin types.

For sensitive skin, the hypoallergenic St. Ives Makeup Remover and Facial Cleanser is a unique two-in-one cream cleanser that removes makeup and cleanses in one simple step. St. Ives cleansers have natural emollients in a gentle, non-drying formula that effectively removes even the heaviest makeup then cleans deeply to reveal soft, smooth skin.

The St. Ives Apricot Scrub in Invigorating, Medicated, Whitening and Gentle variants is an effective exfoliant that's smoother and healthier. The St. Ives Collagen Elastin Essential Moisturizer is a renewing formula that replenishes skin's vital proteins and minimizes the appearance of fine lines for firm, younger-looking skin. The St. Ives Hydroxy Peel-off Masque has Alpha and Beta Hydroxy complex that lifts away dead surface cells and impurities.

St. Ives facial care products have natural nourishing ingredients that provide intense moisture. They contain nourishing Swiss botanicals for softer, smoother, more radiant skin.

St. Ives facial care products are available at popular prices in supermarkets, drug stores and beauty bars nationwide.

Natural exfoliants

St. Ives, a trusted name in face and skin care for over 100 years, uses natural ingredients in its Apricot Scrub line.

More than just soap or facial cleanser, the St. Ives Apricot Scrub, with 100 percent natural exfoliants, cleans deep into the pores and gently removes dull, dead skin cells for noticeably smoother and more radiant skin.

The scrub contains walnut shell powder—a natural exfoliating agent—pure glacial water, vitamin-rich apricot extract, and Swiss botanicals to nourish and smoothen the skin. It is dermatologist-tested, does not clog the pores and has a non-drying formula for clean and healthier-looking skin.

St. Ives Apricot Scrubs has variants for every skin type-Invigorating Apricot Scrub for normal skin, Gentle Apricot Scrub for sensitive skin, and Blemish and Blackhead Control Apricot Scrub for oily and acne-prone skin. St. Ives Whitening Apricot Scrub and St. Ives Exfoliating Apricot Scrub will result in clearer, more radiant complexion for all skin types.

St. Ives also offers the Apricot Hand and Foot Scrub to relieve rough hands and feet; and the Apricot Moisturizing Body Wash to prevent cellulite buildup.

The products are available in all supermarkets, drug stores and beauty bars nationwide in 1 and 6 oz. tubes and 12 oz. tubs.

Luxe haircare institute to open in Manila

THIS March, the art of haircare, backed up the most advanced research, combined with top-of-the-line service and a luxurious environment, comes to Manila with the opening of the first Kerastase Institute at 6750 Ayala.

The center will offer the latest and most personalized hair and scalp treatments, with technology developed by L'Oreal Recherche Avancee.

For the Kerastase Institute's design, Salon ESA collaborated with architect Conrad Onglao to create a space that combines high technology, luxury and relaxation.

The Kerastase treatment area is sound-proof, offering a true escape from the metropolis. Separate changing rooms for men and women contain other accessories for the comfort of guests such as lounge robes, slippers, hair towels, cloth headbands and Velcro body wrap towels.

An auxiliary salon houses other salon offerings such as haircolour, cut and blow, and nail services by all by Salon ESA.

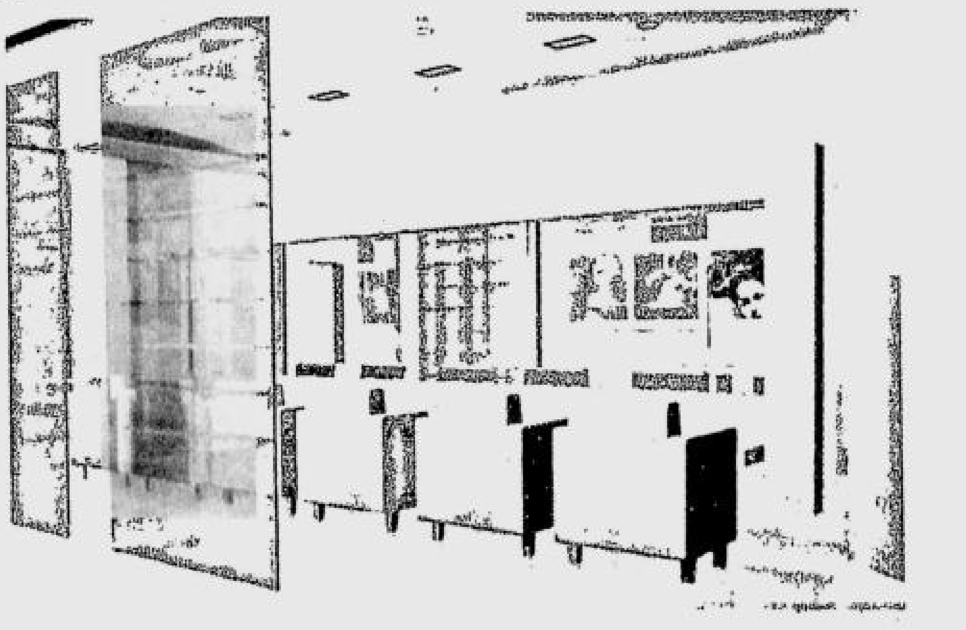
Exclusively for Kerastase, international label Stefano Cecchi Records has also created a CD containing 12 original music pieces. Stefano Cecchi Records is a top independent Lounge and Chill Out music label with almost 1 million albums sold worldwide.

The tracks exclusively composed for Kerastase are in modern lounge/chill-out styles to complement the institute's relaxing ambience.

Laura Tonatto was commissioned to created the fragrances for Kerastase. Also known as "the nose of Turin," this renowned Italian creator studied and worked with several big names in perfumery and in the art world. In 2000, Tonatto created an olfactory library for L'Oreal containing 169 base notes.

This year, she created four fragrances for Kerastase, available in limited editions. "Designer in vogue" Mebs Yaqub designed the bottles for each fragrance, which is associated with each Kerastase ritual. For the Institute, spray perfumes were made for all linen (hair towels, bathrobes, cushions) and spray perfumes were made for paper (credit card slips, brochures, prescription cards).

A retail display showcases Kerastase's full range of products for all types of clients and hairstyles. Before leaving the salon, clients are advised on their personalized product combination to allow them to continue their hair care at home.



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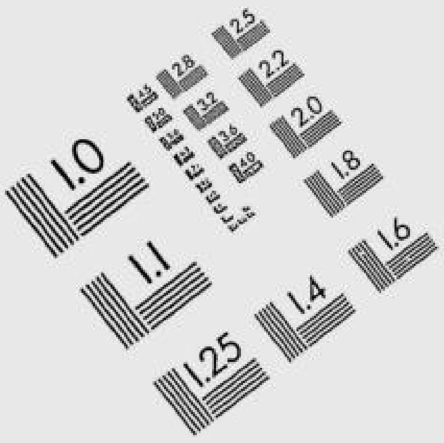
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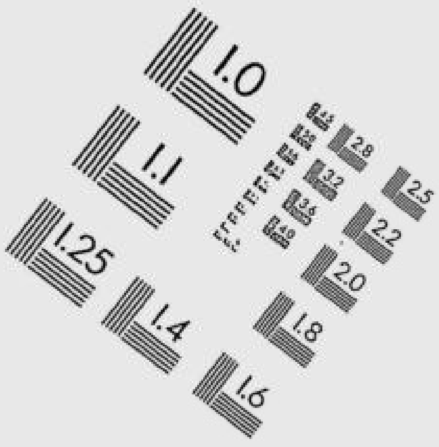
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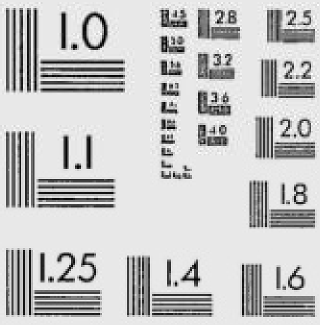
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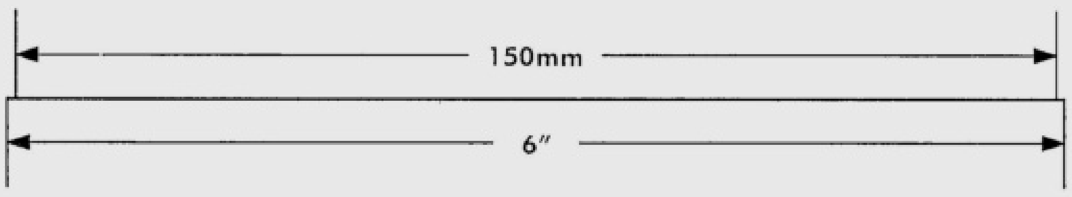

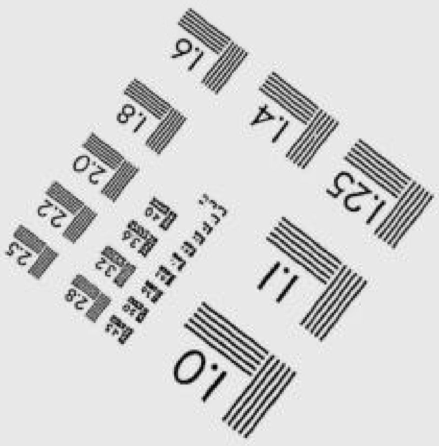
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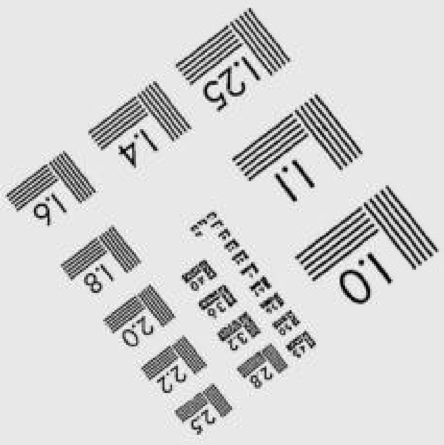
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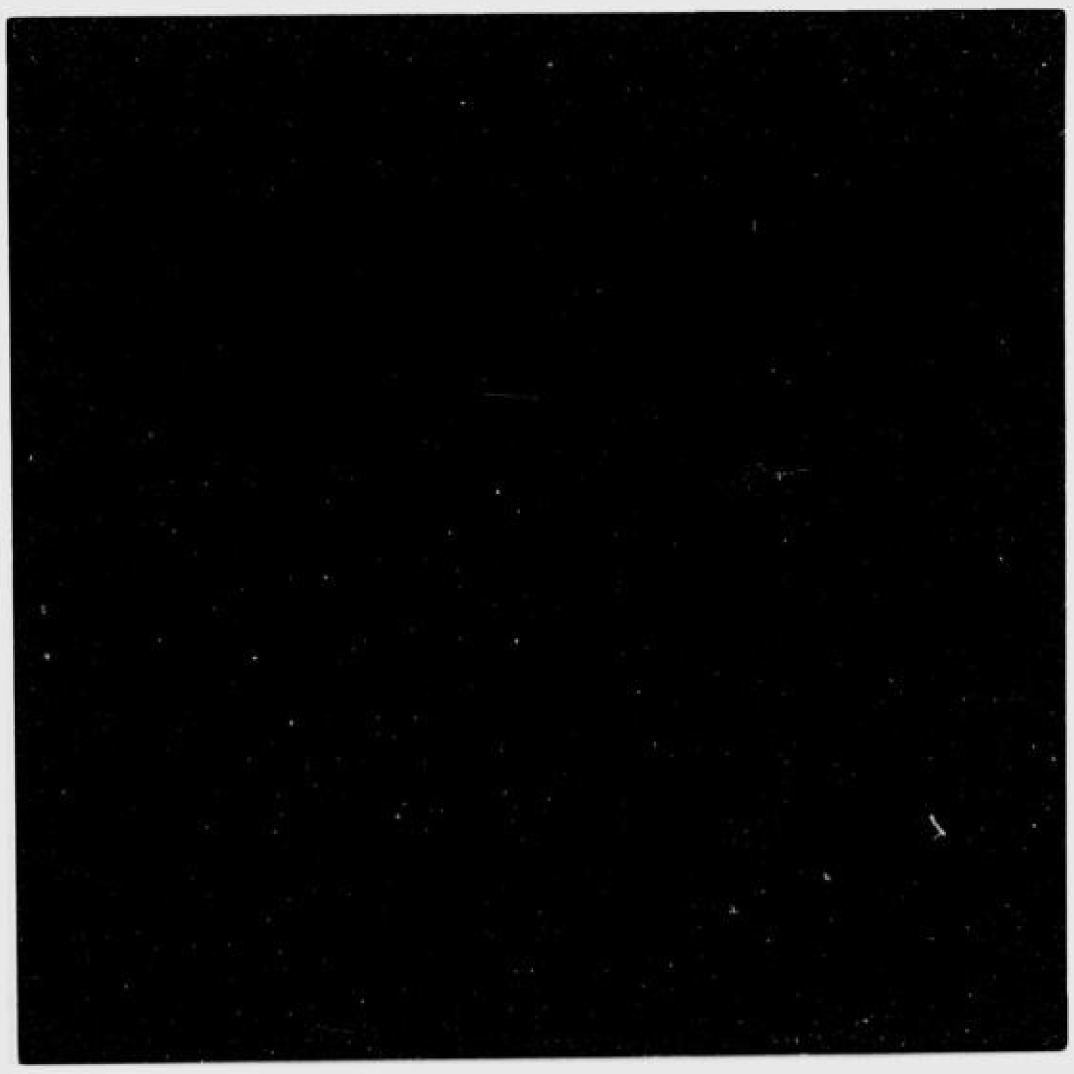

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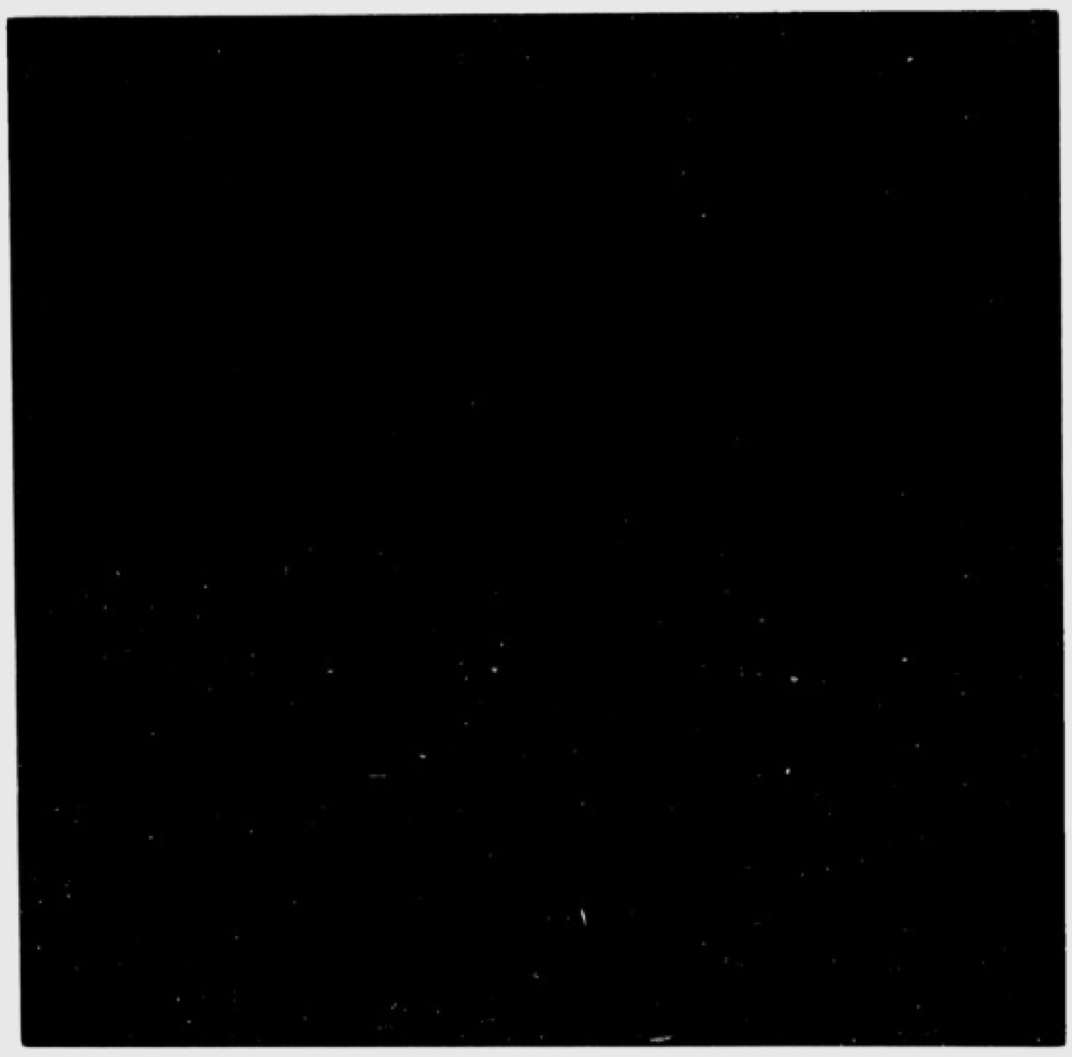
REDUCTION: 19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

FEBRUARY
16 THRU 28
2005

REEL 351



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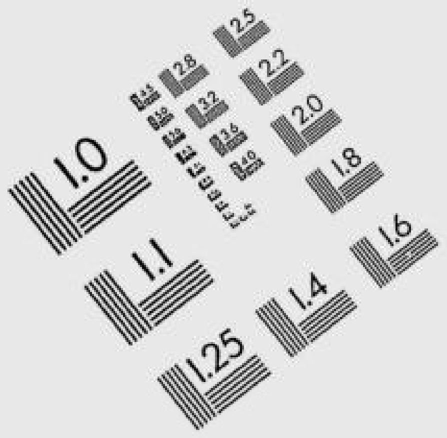
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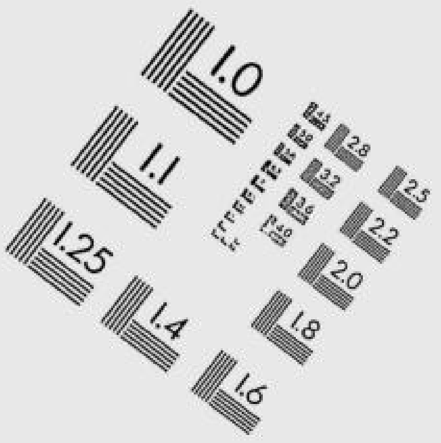
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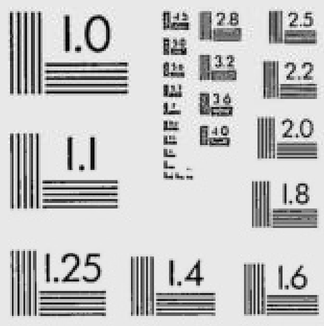
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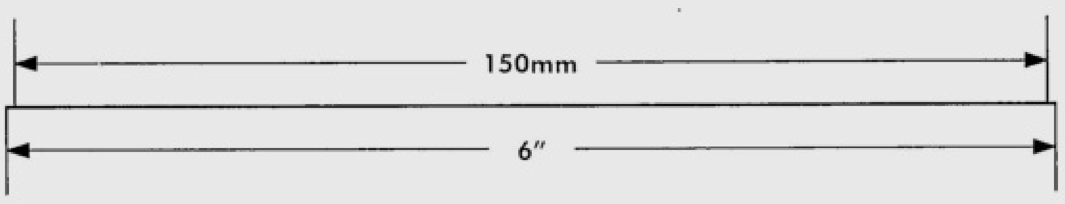

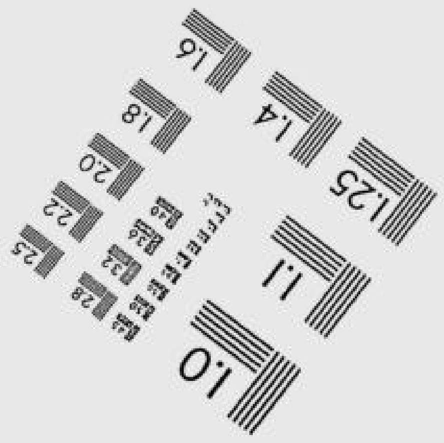
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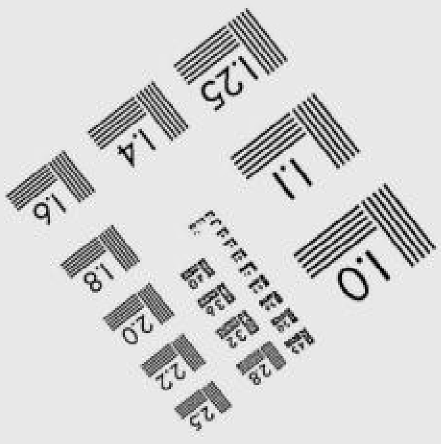
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